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Western Australia

GROWTH OF MT. BARKER CO-OP. LTD.

Extensive Additions to Premises.

EXTENSIVE ADDITIONS have been made to the premises of the Mt. Barker Co-operative Ltd. to enable the company to cope with the extra quantities of fruit to be packed during the 1939 season.

After two years of extended operations, growers have realised the gain in central packing operations, with the result that the whole layout of the buildings have had to be changed. The packing portion is now 184ft. x 110ft. (the original shed in 1916 was 100ft. x 50ft.)

The latest portion has a cement floor and will be used for stacking the fruit loose in cases as it is received from the orchards. It will then be graded and stacked ready for loading into railway trucks, or moved into the cool store.

The cases after being made up are elevated to a loft where they are labelled and then sent down chutes to the packers along each side of the graders. This overcomes the overcrowding of floor space with empty cases.

Two graders were previously in operation, a third grader has been installed this year. A further small grader has also been leased to cope with small lots.

There are about 35 packers at present packing in the shed.

The company has also installed a case making machine, also roller conveyors for taking the packed cases to the packing machines.

Pear packing is also carefully attended to when received from growers, the Pears are immediately put into cool store and brought out for packing and immediately returned. They are then trucked down to the Albany Cool Stores to be further cooled and to wait shipment. The time elapsing between taking out of the cool stores at Albany and being placed in the hold will then necessarily be very short.

The Railway Department has supplied four insulated trucks with which the Pears can be forwarded to Albany.

Packing Shed at Kendenup.

A new packing shed has been erected at Kendenup to relieve space demands on the Mt. Barker building.

APPLE PUBLICITY IN W.A.

Owing to the large crop of Apples this year in Western Australia, approximately 1,500,000 cases, a much greater quantity will be left for local consumption. With this in view the Publicity Committee of the Apple Sales Board is organising a campaign to increase local consumption. The Licut-Govenor, Sir James Mitchell, inaugurated the campaign on March 15, at Government House.

RECORD EXPORT FROM ALBANY.

Special Attention to Pear Shipment.

Indications at present point to about 450,000 cases of fruit being handled at Albany this season, stated Mr. H. W. Soothill (general manager of the Mt. Barker Co-op. Ltd.) recently. This would be a record for the port, and great satisfaction is felt at the competent handling of the fruit so far shipped, thus showing that the port is capable of meeting the heavy demands upon it in regard to the necessary labor.

The results of the Pear shipment loaded on to the "City of Manchester" are being awaited with interest. Following on a report made by Mr. Soothill after his trip to England last year, the Mount Barker Co-op. Ltd. had gone closely into the treatment and pre-cooling of Pears. The Pears shipped on the "City of Manchester" from the Albany stores had in no single instance been without the essential refrigeration temperatures for a greater period than six hours, some being even less.

Experiments are also being made with Pears with a case of new design, calculated to preserve quality of the fruit in transit.

TUNG OIL.

A new product is figuring in W.A. plantings in quite respectable quantities; this is the Tung Oil tree, of which trees 33,159 were recently imported.

RECORD FRUIT CROPS IN W.A.

Exports Will Exceed a Million Cases.

Publicity Campaign to Increase Local Sales.

Because of the smaller crops in the Eastern States, it is estimated that Western Australia will ship approximately 1,000,000 cases of Apples to the United Kingdom and the Continent before the season closes in June. There will also be substantial exports of Grapes and Pears.

It is expected that by the time the season ends the total fruit shipments from Western Australia will exceed last year's aggregate by approximately 400,000 cases.

A publicity campaign is in progress to assist in moving into consumption the large quantity of Apples available.

Western Australia is now sending Apples to the Sydney market.

CROWN PACK DEMONSTRATED.

An Apple and Pear packing demonstration was recently held at Sawyer's Valley (W.A.) under the auspices of the Eastern Hills Fruitgrowers' Association. There was a large attendance of district fruitgrowers' and Mr. Flintoff (Horticultural Adviser of the Department of Agriculture) demonstrated the crown pack as practised in Tasmania; the object being to get the minimum net weight of 42 lb. in each case without danger of bruising.

Mr. G. Wickens, Superintendent of Horticulture, and Mr. V. Cahill, District Supervisor also attended.

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NEWS OF THE MONTH.

Royal Commissioner's Report.

THE OUTSTANDING ITEM of interest at the moment is the report of the Royal Commissioner on the N.S.W. Fruit Industry Enquiry, Mr. J. E. McCulloch, S.M.

As will be gathered from the report in this issue, the Report is a lengthy document. The full report has only recently been tabled in the N.S.W. Parliament, and it is expected that copies will be available in the near future.

However, the summary published in this issue is sufficient to indicate the broad lines of the findings. The complete report doubtless contains the reasons leading up to these findings.

Already vigorous comments are heard for and against specific findings. On at least one contentious point—price fixation, the President of the Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W. asks that judgment be withheld until the full details are available.

In addition to publishing a summary of the Commissioners' Report, we have included authoritative comments on some aspects thereof. Letters from readers are invited on any phases of the Commissioner's Report, or other matters affecting the industry.

All will agree that sincere thanks are due to the Commissioner for the careful report he has prepared. He has been thorough and painstaking in securing and sifting evidence. Mr. McCulloch has the courage of his convictions, and in no instance is this shown more clearly in recommending that a date be set for the cessation of sale of cool stored Apples and the importation of Canadian Apples.

The report indicates that the Commissioner has viewed the industry comprehensively as affecting producers and consumers.

Then, as regards the individuals that go to make up the industry, the Commissioner has made recommendations which are deemed to be helpful both for the individual and national viewpoint.

PERSONAL

Mr. W. Ranger, London representative of Gollin and Co. Pty Ltd., is at present in Australia, where he is thoroughly investigating the dried fruit industry. Although it is his first visit to Australia, he has been connected with the dried fruit industry in London for 20 years. Mr. Ranger is of the opinion that the Export Control Board has done wonderful work since its inception, and is partially responsible for the success of the recent Dried Fruit Sales in London. He also considers that Australian dried fruits are well advertised in the U.K. Mr. Ranger intends to inspect the dried fruit industry in Cape Province, South Africa, before returning to England..

Mr. E. E. Anderson, Entomologist, South African Department of Agriculture, visited Melbourne at the beginning of April. He was met by Mr. R. T. M. Pescott, Victorian Government Entomologist, and experiences were exchanged. Mr. Anderson is studying certain virus diseases. He was accompanied by his wife.

Mr. W. M. Carne, Science Officer, Department of Commerce, will arrive in Perth on April 10, and stay for the remainder of the week, visiting Fremantle and Albany, and the central packing sheds at Mt. Barker and Bridgetown. Mr. Carne has charge of the standardisation of fruit exports.

On his return from New Zealand, **Mr. Schwennesen**, general manager of the Victorian Central Citrus Association, stated that certain tentative decisions had been made on sales of citrus which should be mutually satisfactory to both countries. Except for a few faults which could be remedied, Australian Oranges had given satisfaction in New Zealand, and growers had nothing to fear from Jamaican fruit which was of good texture and fairly thin in the rind, but pale in appearance and possessing more seeds than Australian Valencias. Trade with New Zealand could be increased if Australian citrus growers could meet competition with Jamaican exporters from January to April. Unfortunately, however, Oranges were generally in short supply in Australia during that period, and prices were higher.

Mr. A. G. Enticnap, who has rendered excellent service to Leeton (N.S.W.) fruitgrowers for many years, was recently tendered a complimentary dinner, prior to his leaving for Yenda to take charge of the Producers' Packing Shed.

Severe injuries were received by Mr. W. Keys, Chief Fruit Inspector, Victorian Department of Agriculture, in a recent motor accident. The car was being driven by Mr. Noel Perry, when a tyre blew out, the car overturned three times, but the other occupants of the car, including Mr. F. M. Read, Superintendent of Horticulture, were uninjured. Mr. Keys sustained a broken leg and other in-

juries. He was admitted to the Moorcopna Base Hospital, and is now progressing satisfactorily.

Mr. V. L. Lawrey, Orchard Supervisor, Victorian Department of Agriculture, recently gave an interesting wireless talk on 3SR Shepparton, dealing with the 1938-39 experiences in control measures for Codling Moth in Pears.

General J. Heane, President of the Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W., has issued an appreciative statement relative to the report of the Fruit Industry Enquiry Commissioner. General Heane has been elected to represent the Federation at the British Empire Producers' Conference at Canberra in April.

Mr. Y. F. Jesser, of Clark & Jesser, Brisbane, has been elected chairman of directors of the Brisbane Fruit and Produce Exchange in succession to Mr. A. Martin. Mr. Jesser is also President of the Brisbane Fruit Merchants Association.

OBITUARY

The Hon. L. M. Shoobridge.

In the passing of the Hon. L. M. Shoobridge, of Sunnyside, Newtown, Tasmania, Australia loses a noted citizen and the fruit industry a devoted friend. Mr. Shoobridge, who died in his 88th year, will always hold an honored place in the annals of the Australian fruit industry. He was among the very first to realise the importance and possibilities of the Apple export trade. He personally accompanied the first shipments to England and took an active part in the developments which followed.

Mr. Shoobridge was a leading figure in the fruit section of the Tasmanian Farmers, Stockowners and Fruitgrowers' Association; was President of the Australian Fruitgrowers' Conference, and assisted that organisation over the many years of its existence, until it merged into the Australian Apple and Pear Export Council. He performed useful service on the Australian Pomological Committee.

He was of a generous, lovable, nature, beloved by all who knew him. He was alert, far-seeing, and had the capacity of seeing the best in everyone. For the last 25 years of his life he gave away about one-third of his income to deserving causes.

Apart from his sustained interest in fruitgrowing he was active in relation to matters affecting the wool industry.

The late Mr. Shoobridge was ever a lover of trees and flowers. He was an Alderman of the Hobart City Council for 14 years and took a great interest in the parks and reserves. In many instances he effected improvements at his own expense, providing both trees and labor. He came to Melbourne in the Autumn of each year regularly to see Garden Week. Then, when the Tree Planters' Association was founded, he became a member and regularly attended the conferences and trips in Melbourne.

One has a never-to-be-forgotten memory of him striding in the van of the parties on their various tours—always active, bright, and keenly interested in the development of tree planting in Australia.

The late Mr. Shoobridge was a member of the Tasmanian Legislative Council for 16 years and was honored by the King conferring upon him the right to use the prefix "Honorable" for life.

Mr. Shoobridge was twice married. His first wife, a daughter of Colonel Leadbetter, of the Indian Army, died a few years after the marriage, and in 1882 he married the eldest daughter of the late Sir Philip Fysh. He is survived by his wife and four sons—Messrs. R. O., K. L., D. M., and M. Shoobridge. There are 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Vale. Nature's Gentleman!

Under unusual circumstances the death occurred of **Mr. Charles Carnaby**, Huon, (Tas.), recently. Mr. Carnaby descended a shaft while repairing a private power plant, and a bag which he had placed on his shoulders to prevent water dripping on to him became entangled in the shafting connected with the generator and he was strangled.

News in Brief

The Vegetable Growers' Association of Victoria has passed a resolution asking that a Wages Board be formed for the industry, and that this be applicable to the whole state.

A vigorous campaign is being waged on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas against Red Scale, in an attempt to eradicate the pest.

The citrus crop on the M.I.A. is reported to be light in most places, Valencias having developed a rather better crop than Navels.

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NEWS IN BRIEF—(Cont'd.)

Shepparton district expects to pack 100,000 cases of Pears for export.

Western Australian Jonathans are now appearing on the Sydney Market.

Tasmanian Apples are receiving much favorable publicity on the mainland, because of the generous gifts of this fruit to returned soldiers at repatriation hospitals.

In the present season it is estimated that a record quantity of 450,000 cases of fruit will be shipped from Albany, W.A.

The Mt. Barker (W.A.) Co-op. packing house has been enlarged and a third grader installed.

A new packing shed is operating at Kendenup.

The Royal Commissioner on the Fruit Industry Inquiry in N.S.W. has presented his report on the N.S.W. Fruit Industry. A comprehensive summary is published in this issue.

A vigorous Apple publicity campaign is in progress in Western Australia to bring about an increase in the consumption of Apples.

The Sydney fruit trade report that too many varieties of Pears come forward for sale. It would be better for everybody if the demand could be concentrated on to a few outstanding varieties.

In relation to the Australian Apple and Pear Board, the names of Messrs. A. U. Tonking, M.L.A. (Orange), and E. Ray (Bathurst) have been submitted to the Commonwealth Government by the Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W. One will be selected.

Because of the heavy carry-over of Codling Moth infestation in the 1937-38 season in the Goulburn Valley, Vic., and favorable conditions for Moth developments in 1938-39, growers commenced this season under a handicap. Details are given in this issue, and suggestions for orchard hygiene to improve matters for next season.

(Continued on Page 8)

CODLING MOTH IN PEARS

Review of 1938-39 Experiences in the Goulburn Valley (Victoria)

HEAVY CARRY OVER FROM LAST SEASON — NECESSITY FOR THOROUGH SPRAYING AT CORRECT PERIOD — THE VALUE OF LURE POTS — IMPORTANCE OF ORCHARD HYGIENE.

Wireless talk over 3SR Shepparton by V. E. Lawrey, Orchard Supervisor, Victorian Dept. of Agriculture.

THE INCIDENCE OF CODLING MOTH in Pears in the Shepparton district in 1938-39 was comparatively high. Several sets of conditions were responsible for this and to get at the whole of the reasons, the season of 1936-37 must be considered.

In this season the Williams crop was heavy and at the end of the season the position with many growers was that their cannery quotas were filled—the market was glutted and the remaining fruit of so little value that it was allowed to hang on the trees until late in the season. Eventually this position eased and any sound fruit left was marketed, but the delay at this period enabled Codling Moth to build up to high numbers. The fruit being of such little value, no control measures were undertaken so late in the season.

A high carryover was thus built up for 1937-38 season. With the high carryover and the favourable conditions for Codling development in 1937-38, the infestation was high in this season and so a carryover was built up for 1938-39 season. It would appear that this condition was accentuated by the dry winter of 1938.

Over-wintering larvae which would normally have been destroyed or at least forced to hibernate on a part of the tree where winter hygienic treatment would have destroyed them, were enabled to over-winter in the soil and emerge as moths in the spring.

This conclusion is supported by the fact that bag bands which were cleaned out early in the winter were found to be harbouring considerable quantities of larvae in the early spring, following the spring ploughing, which apparently disturbed them. Although this is not an uncommon occurrence the number of larvae found this season was excessive.

Seasonal conditions were responsible for an early emergency of the spring brood of moths. This brood commenced to emerge in quantity at the beginning of October, reaching a peak late in October, fading away in mid-November. This correspended with 1937-38, but which is nearly a fortnight earlier than usual.

Warm conditions enabled the moths to lay eggs without interruption and also caused the eggs to incubate in a very short period. The larvae reached maturity quickly after entering the fruit for the same reason.

This exceptionally warm weather continued without a break until early December. A cool change then occurred after which the weather again became hot and settled.

Another emergence of moths commenced about mid-December, reaching a peak on December 26, 1938, then gradually fading away. The bulk of the eggs laid by these moths hatched out very early in January, 1939. Thus the Williams Pears had to bear the damage caused by **two full broods** before a Pear was harvested.

In a normal year the damage from the young second brood larvae does occur until towards the end of January, by which time a good percentage of the crop is harvested. This is the explanation for the occurrence in past seasons of the first and perhaps the second picks of the Williams being relatively clean and the later ones having considerable infestation.

Again, in this season, the weather continued hot through January and a further brood of moths emerged early in February reaching a peak on the February 13. A quantity of Williams was still on the trees at this time and in many orchards considerable damage occurred to this fruit and also to export Pears.

Thus the Williams had to bear the attacks of two full broods and in some orchards part of a third. The late Pears had practically three full broods to survive.

The season was practically one full brood ahead of normal.

Control Measures.

A wide variation in control measures was evident through the season. Few growers had a really clean crop of Pears, but a considerable number had a percentage of 92-94% clean fruit. Unfortunately, however, many growers had only 60-70% clean fruit. This latter result, or rather lack of result, was not due to their control measures being worse than in previous seasons, but to the fact that the Codling was so much more difficult to control.

Observations of the methods of control used on the cleanest orchards show that the spraying was carried out exactly as recommended by the Shepparton Advisory Committee — that the trees were drenched with spray, and that rods were used for the first two sprays at least.

Bag bands also were used and the **forks of the trees were not kept free** from larvae and pupae.

With the big percentage of growers whose control was within reason, but not as good as it might have been, say from 8-10% infection any one or more of several weaknesses were noticeable. One of the most common was that **although bag bands were used and regularly attended to, the forks of the trees were not kept free from grubs.**

Another defect was that a mound of soil was allowed to remain around the butts of the trees and larvae pupated on the butts of the trees protected by the mound of soil. Both these weaknesses reduced the efficiency of the bands.

Weaknesses also were noticeable in the spraying. In some instances **too many trees were being sprayed per vat of spray.** In others, where spray guns or pistols were used for either of the first two sprays, particularly on windy days, the calyces of

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Extract from "BETTER FRUIT," March, 1937, by Dr. R. L. Webster, Entomologist, State College of Washington, Pullman: CODLIN MOTH COVER SPRAYS—"Ever since the imposition of an arsenic tolerance in 1926, and even before that time, investigators have been testing other materials which may be used in place of lead arsenate. Following all these intensive and extensive investigations lead arsenate appears to have certain inherent qualities which place this material foremost as an insecticide for codlin moth control."

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the fruit were not properly filled before closing.

Where spraying was reasonably done and thorough hygience practised it was exceptional to see 10% infections, mainly it was 6-8%.

In orchards where the percentage of infection was high, the causes were usually obvious. In many instances hygiene was totally neglected. Very few orchards where this was the case escaped severe infestation.

Several factors outside the control of the grower in any one season can be the cause of a variability in control. For example it was definitely shown that a block which was clean last season, was more easily kept clean this season than one which had a high infestation last season.

Some blocks are always easier to keep clean than others. One of the reasons for this is that some blocks mature their fruit earlier than others and the fruit is harvested before the later broods can cause serious damage. What is perhaps more important is that the Codling has less time to build up to large numbers for over-wintering.

Exceptionally early blocks are naturally clean blocks. Late blocks are the hardest of all to keep clean.

Another point of interest which may be made of practical use is that sections of a block on a run down in the level of the soil have a higher infestation than those on level ground. This is probably due to the water not saturating the soil so thoroughly on the run down particularly against the butts of the trees which are often high and dry. There are indications that Codling pupates under the soil level under these conditions.

Headlands are also a source of annoyance probably owing to the cover afforded to grubs by rubbish. Rubbish around the butts of any trees is a harbor for larvae and pupae.

Outside interference plays some part in the results. **A dirty orchard just over the fence has an influence for several rows. Quince trees adjacent to Pears are also dangerous.**

The conclusions to be drawn from this season are that Codling Moth can be kept to a minimum, but this result has to be worked for. Close attention to hygiene will so reduce the moth population that spraying can be expected to give satisfactory results. Another point is that some growers have awakened to the necessity for sterner control measures —others up to this season at least had not, but the losses recently incurred should have rectified this situation.

The Department of Agriculture has gone a long way towards pointing out the position to growers in the district and to providing information for their use.

Two demonstration plots are being utilised in the district this season, one for Williams and one for Packhams. These plots are of commercial size and are being used for two purposes. Firstly to demonstrate the methods of control which growers are being advised to use and to check up on the results so obtained, and secondly as observation posts on which the seasonal variations of Codling Moth activity can be observed.

This season the control measures previously mentioned were rigidly adhered to on these plots and the results have been entirely satisfactory. A detailed report will be published at a later date.

The emergences of Codling Moth this season were observed

by means of lures

placed in the trees on these plots and the information so gained was passed on to growers by means of the circulars prepared by the Shepparton Fruit Growers' Advisory Committee and through Station 3SR.

With the average high infestation of Pears with Codling Moth this season and resultant loss of fruit, extra sorting costs and worry, it would be common sense for each grower affected to take stock of the position, determine where the weakness lies and effect a remedy, rather than just trust to natural conditions to assist in control next season.

Last season the damage was serious and it was so again this season. The next is largely in the hands of the growers themselves.

How the insects find out is their business! Cramping their style is YOUR business – and ours, too. We think you will agree that there is only one way to deal with pestiferous enemies – STOP them before they START, and stop 'em dead, with Gargoyle RED–the finest spraying oil in the world. Kills eggs, kills insects, softens the bark, and improves the health and fruitfulness of the tree. Always specify "Gargoyle" brand – there's no higher quality.

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N.S.W. BANANA MARKETING BOARD.

Legislation Requested to Continue its Existence.

At a meeting held at Murwillumbah (N.S.W.) recently, the board of directors of the N.S.W. Banana Growers' Federation Co-operative Ltd. decided to ask the Minister for Agriculture to introduce legislation to continue the existence of the Banana Marketing Board until the Government decided whether it would provide legislation for the fruit industry.

Oriental Peach Moth Investigations

Discovery and Establishment of Parasite

THE ORIENTAL PEACH MOTH is a serious pest of fruit in the Goulburn Valley, Victoria, attacking in particular the late canning Peaches, which are an important product of the district. Its spread was insidious, but, by 1934, growers had become seriously alarmed, and a thorough investigation was arranged.

Investigations were carried out by the C.S.I.R. and the following summary is taken from a Bulletin recently published.

Funds were made available jointly by the Canned Fruits Control Board and the Commonwealth Bank (from its Rural Credits Development Fund), and these two bodies have shared the whole cost of the investigation. The Council is supplying the research worker, and the Victorian Department of Agriculture is administering the finance. The investigation is under the general supervision of an Advisory Committee representative of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, the Canned Fruits Control Board, and the C.S.I.R.

The first season's work, in 1934-35, was carried out by Mr. F. J. Gay, his report being published in the "Journal of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research." Since then, the investigation has been continued by Mr. G. A. H. Helson, who is attached to the Council's Division of Economic Entomology, and whose work during the subsequent years 1935-38 is summarised in the Bulletin under review. **Substantial advance has been made since the research began.** The problem has been clearly defined, some knowledge has been obtained of the conditions influencing infestation, the various control measures have been placed in proper perspective to one another and to the problem as a whole, and a vigorous imported parasite has been established, at any rate during the Summer months. It may be disappointing to record that little hope can be held out for spraying as a method of control, but it is important to know such limitations, so that waste effort can be eliminated, and the disappointment is offset by the way the parasite, Macrocentrus ancylivorus, has taken on in the field. The work is being continued, with special attention to the possibility of biological control.

In addition to the bodies previously mentioned, the Northern Victoria Fruitgrowers' Association has co-operated whole-heartedly with the Advisory Committee in providing facilities for the work. Progress has also been facilitated by the Ardmona Fruit Products Co-op. Co. Ltd. providing a room for a combined laboratory and quarantine insectary, and by the generous help of local growers and canning organisations in providing accommodation and facilities for field studies. Finally, the United States Department of Agriculture very kindly placed all the facilities of its Oriental Fruit Moth Parasite Laboratory at Moorestown, New Jersey, at the disposal of the Council's investigator whilst he was in the United States, and it also assisted him in other ways.

Summary.

1. The losses caused by the Oriental Peach Moth (Cydia molesta) in the Goulburn Valley, Victoria, threaten the canned Peach industry.

2. There are five generations of moths in an average year.

3. The abundance of over-wintering larvae, or even of the earlier generations in a season, is shown to be unreliable as an indicator of the amount of damage likely to be suffered by late canning Peaches.

4. The only stages in the life-history which can be reached by spray materials are the eggs and the newly-hatched larvae.

5. Forty-four insecticides have been tested in the laboratory. The most promising of these were a white oil and a nicotine sulphate bentonite mixture.

6. Field tests with a number of the most promising insecticides failed to give a satisfactory control of the pest, because of the peculiar habits of the larvae and the moth, the vigorous growth of the Peach, particularly under irrigation, and the growth of the fruit in dense clusters.

7. Field tests with different types of bandages for the trapping of over-wintering larvae showed that cardboard bandages treated with beta-naphthol were most efficient. Where it is desired to favor the action of parasites, the untreated corrugated cardboard bandage is preferable.

8. The treatment of fruit cases in a steam steriliser kills all hibernating larvae and pupae.

9. The most important established parasite in the Goulburn Valley is Dibrachys boucheanus (Ratz).

10. Since 1935, five species of parasites have been introduced from the United States of America, and of these Macrocentrus ancylivorus Rohw. has been recovered in the field. It is proposed to make further introductions of parasites in the Spring of 1938.

FRUIT FLY CONTROL.

In the annual report of the W.A. Department of Agriculture for 1938 it is reported that the State's orchard enemy No. 1 (Fruit Fly) still causes both growers and Departmental officers considerable concern, but there is reason to hope that the appointment of extra inspectors from funds made available through orchard registration fees, the smaller areas under supervision of each inspector thus made possible, and the **discovery of a new bait in sodium fluosilicate,** will enable us to bring the pest under control.

DIE BACK IN FRUIT TREES.

The Western Australian Department of Agriculture recently conducted tests with die-back. It was found that copper was generally effective in preventing or curing the disease, and that such effects could not be obtained by the use of other chemicals.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF PESTS.

In Western Australia success was achieved in the releasing of colonies of the Woolly Aphis parasite.

The Department of Agriculture has also distributed colonies of the Cabbage Aphis parasite.

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.

The Annual report of the Imperial Economic Committee covering the period of April 1, 1937 to March 31, 1938, is to hand. The report deals with the Imperial Conference held in 1937, the year's work, including the circulation of intelligence notes, commodity series, and world surveys, and finance.

Brief Reviews

Experiments on the production of unfermented Apple juice," by Vernon S. Charley: A 40-page booklet, reprinted from the annual report of the Agricultural and Horticultural Research Station, Long Ashton, Bristol, England. This deals with (1) Hot and cold processing of cider and culinary Apple juices; (2) effect of pasteurising temperature on flavor and stability of juice with different acidities; (3) storage of cold processed Apple juice in wooden and metal vessels; (4) experiments on the deaeration and flash pasteurisation of Apple juices for immediate canning or bottling.

In a foreword it is stated that the unfermented Apple juice industry in Europe, which began to develop rapidly about 12 years ago, has made extraordinary advances during the last five years. In 1937 the output and consumption of Apple juice in Germany was between 13 and 16 million gallons.

The booklet is of interest to those who are considering how this industry may be developed in Australia.

:: :: ::

"The Meaning, Possibilities, and Limitations of Co-operative Marketing," by E. F. Dummeier, State College of Washington Experiment Station, U.S.A.: An explanation of the basic principles of co-operation, breaches of which have caused practically all of the failures in co-operative enterprises. Sections of particular interest deal with the possibilities of applying co-operation to many of the problems affecting primary producers.

:: :: ::

"Soilless Growth of Plants": This is a particularly interesting book by Carleton Ellis and Miller W. Swaney, presenting a concise and non-technical discussion of the chemistry of plant life and a review of the three recognised modifications of soilless growth, namely water-culture, sand-culture, and sub-irrigation systems. The various chapters are headed as follow:—Chemistry of Plant Life, Growing in Mineral Aggregates, Growing in Water, Household Plant Culture, Commercial Aspects, Special Chemicals, Common Detriments and Nutrient Formulas.

"Soilless Growth of Plants," which is illustrated throughout, is published in New York by the Reinhold Publishing Corporation. Copies may also be secured on application to Angus & Robertson Ltd., 89-95 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, N.S.W., the price being 15/- (postage 6d.).

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"United States Agricultural Statistics," for 1938, issued by the United States Agricultural Bureau, is really a Year Book of Agriculture for that country. It is a 500-page volume covering the whole field of land production and the value of output in every State of the Union.

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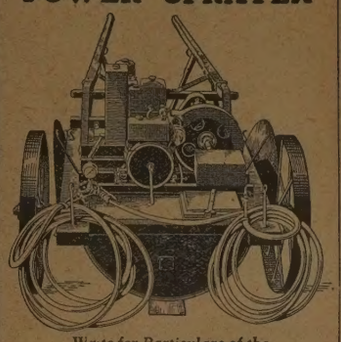

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News in Brief

A noticeable feature of the Tasmanian export season is the change over from the Australian dump case to the standard case.

Now is an excellent time to treat Apricot trees for "Die Back," as the affected limbs are more easily detected.

The forecast for citrus in N.S.W. in the 1939 season is for 2,418,000 bushels, of which the estimated proportions are (in bushels): Valencias, 900,000, Navels 790,000; Commons 180,000; Mandarins 225,000; Lemons 300,000.

Sterner measures for the control of Codling Moth in Pears in the Goulburn Valley are recommended by the Department of Agriculture.

The Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Brisbane, is requesting the co-operation of the Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W. for an approach to the Commonwealth Government with a view to securing the limitation of the total imports into Australia of Palestine Grapefruit, and the limiting of the period in which they can be imported at the present rate of duty.

The Citrus Embargo Abolition League of Australia is actively at work in its endeavours to improve trade with New Zealand.

The Renmark Fruitgrowers' Co-operated have received a quantity of Fenugreek seed, which they intend to experiment with as a legume for cover crops.

The Housewives' Association of N.S.W. has recently completed arrangements with certain Pineapple growers to supply cheap Pineapples through its organisation. A case of five large Pineapples could now be delivered at the consumer's home for 3/6—this price including 2d. for cartage. The organisation is merely collecting orders and is making no profit.

The Navel Orange crop in N.S.W. this season will be light. Valencias light to medium generally, but a moderate crop is expected from the M.I.A. Bushfires around Baulkham Hills destroyed 7,000 trees.

The hot dry weather conditions in N.S.W. has seriously affected pome fruits. Owing to defoliation by hot winds there have been losses through sun scald. Apples and Pears will be generally on the light side. Production is expected to be substantially below earlier estimates, and only a very modest quantity will be exported.

There is an agitation in Queensland in relation to more irrigation. The many sections of the producers in Queensland are of the opinion that the matter of irrigation has not been effectively attended to in this productive State.

A stunt to direct attention to the Apple industry in U.S.A. was the making of a huge Apple pie—big enough for 4,000 people to eat, and when they'd finished there was not much left for the sparrows. This gigantic pie secured nation-wide publicity in the movies and by pictures in newspapers and magazines.

For the nine months ended December 31, 1938, the Melbourne market received a record crop of citrus fruit, 845,000 bushels of all varieties, as compared with the previous highest —836,000 in 1931.

The Orange publicity campaign conducted by the Victorian Central Citrus Association was effective in increasing consumption of this fruit. A new feature — brand advertising — is now contemplated.

Large quantities of fertilisers, of brands not registered in New South Wales, have been sold in the northern areas of the State by Queensland traders. In the southern areas some unregistered brands were introduced from Victoria. The N.S.W. Dept. took the matter up with the firms concerned, and satisfactory arrangements were made

A Tomato crop of 40 tons per acre was grown on the banks of the Nattai River, in the Burragarong Valley, N.S.W. Careful seed selection, generous irrigation, heavy feeding and rigorous disease control are regarded as principal factors in the production of such a heavy crop.

The "Californian Cultivator" says: "Growers' Prunes may sometimes get by the receiving inspector; the packed fruit may sometimes get by the buyer's inspector, but no poor fruit can get by the consumer, who eats the fruit one at a time."

Fruitgrowers in the Hills district of N.S.W. have asked the Government for aid in areas where great damage was done in December storms.

Californian Prune growers anticipate improved conditions following the season's operations of their pro-rate (control) plan. A heavy surplus was avoided, and little or no carry-over is expected to be on hand to depress 1939 values.

Experiments for the improvement of citrus trees have produced important results in the New South Wales tests, including a promising new type known as the Tangelo Orange. This is a cross between the Grapefruit and the Mandarin. The Mandarin is regarded as offering the greatest scope for improvement.

Experiments have been conducted in Russia into methods for increasing the yield capacity for Orange trees. More and better fruit was obtained and large scale trials are recommended.

A striking example of how sand-drift can be prevented has been provided at Broken Hill, where an area was fenced to keep out rabbits and stock, and trees and shrubs were planted. Such remarkable progress has been made in two years that drift has been checked, and influential bodies are planning an extension of the scheme to encircle Broken Hill.

The S. Aust. Dried Fruits Board is co-operating with the S. Aust. Packers' Association in staging a competitive trade exhibit at the forthcoming Adelaide Royal Show.

The gas storage of Pears is at present being investigated at the Shepparton Cannery.

FRUIT FREIGHT REDUCTIONS.

Sought by U.S.A. and Argentine.

An effort is being made in U.S.A. to get ocean fruit freight concessions in the trade from the Pacific to the Atlantic seaboard via the Panama Canal. Arguments are put forward for the subsidising of the merchant marine in domestic trade as well as in foreign trade. It is stated that except where there are unfair combinations of foreign-controlled steamships, American shippers now have as low rates in foreign trade whether they use foreign flag vessels or American ships.

Activity in Argentine.

It was recently stated in a Havas Agency telegram from London that negotiations were taking place between the Argentine Government and directors of shipping companies regarding reductions in fruit freights and improvement in refrigerated transport conditions in order to increase fruit export from Argentine to Great Britain.

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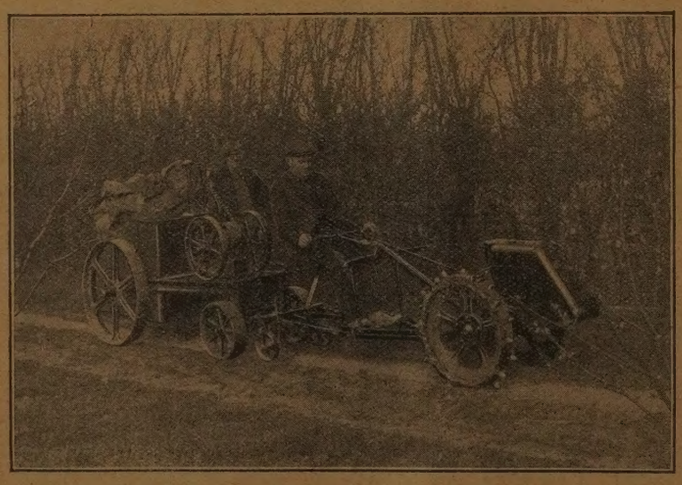

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Goulburn Valley News and Notes

GLORIOUS RAINS TRANSFORM THE COUNTRYSIDE AND SAVE THE PULLARS CLING PEACH CROP — CANNERIES WORKING AT FULL CAPACITY.

(By Our Correspondent.)

Ardmona, 29/3/39.

BOUNTEOUS RAINS in the Goulburn Valley, which broke the drought about the third week in February, when 5 inches of rain was recorded in two days, completely saturating the soil and changing the whole outlook for the district.

The irrigation problem for 1939 was solved immedately, for there has been no need for any further irrigation since the rain fell, and all surplus water has been carefully stored in the Waranga Basin for next season.

The rain saved the Pullars Cling crop, which this year has been particularly good. The fruit has been clean and of good size and color, and free from grub and rot.

Fruitgrowers and Goulburn Valley canneries, as well as all the metropolitan canneries, have been working to their fullest capacity during the last three weeks to deal with the wonderful Pullars Cling Peach, which again has proved to be the mainstay of the cannery Peach industry, as mid-season varieties were rather light in tonnage.

Hundreds of men and women have been employed picking, processing, and carting the crop. Some of the big Ardmona growers were sending away thousands of cases daily, and the railways as well as a large fleet of motor transports, were taxed to full capacity in the unprecedented rush of getting the crop off on time.

The S.P.C. Cannery is said to have received in the vicinity of 24,000 cases in one day.

Last week, during the rush, a heavy torrental rainfall, caused by a thunder storm, when 230 pts. was registered, partly disorganising the work for the time being.

Orchards became flooded, the ground was again thoroughly saturated, transports became bogged getting the fruit off the blocks, and in some cases had to be pulled out by tractors.

The Ardmona Cannery was flooded to a depth of 6 inches over the floor, and work came to a standstill for the time being.

However, the weather cleared up quickly and no great damage was done to the remaining Peach crop, unless from now onwards a little Brown Rot was evident on the trees.

The grass in the orchards have made such an abnormal growth during the past five weeks that it is now 4 to 5 feet high, and heavy dews at night make it so wet that picking has been carried on under difficulties, the men getting wet through to the waist; rubber boots had to be worn, and on some of the big orchards the men went on strike for more pay because of difficult working conditions.

The transformation of the countryside in such a short time, from bare, dusty paddock to luxuriant growth is really remarkable, with green grasses and Clovers in the pastures from 6 in. to 1 foot high, has completely changed the outlook. Old pioneers say they can never remember such a bounteous Autumn, and such wonderful growth, which is more like Spring than Autumn.

The Grape Crop has suffered rather badly from the rain storms, rot setting in the large bunches. Here again the long grass which has grown so rapidly has had to be mowed down to allow fresh air and sunlight to dry out excessive moisture.

SUPPLIES FOR INDIAN ARMY.

Jam and Hops.

The Secretary of the Department of Commerce, Canberra (Mr. J. F. Murphy), states that tenders for the supply of jam and hops to the Indian Army were being called by the Director of Contracts, Army Headquarters, Simla, India.

Details of the conditions and specifications under which tenders should be furnished may be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Canberra, or from the offices of the Department in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

BAN ON N.Z. VEGETABLES.

Owing to a Butterfly pest, a ban was placed on the entry into Australia of New Zealand green vegetables, including Cabbages, Cauliflowers, Swedes, Radishes, Turnips, Brussels Sprouts, commencing from March 24. The Butterfly is about one inch across the yellow and white wings, It lays its eggs in the leaves of the vegetables and these are hatched into small grubs which feed voraciously on the leaves, boring into the heart of the vegetable.

"FRUIT WORLD" APPRECIATED.

The Editor,

Dear Sir,

I enjoy reading the "Fruit World," as it is very up-to-date and instructive in all the rural and other industries that it deals with, and trust you will continue to print it in the same expansive way.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) "G.H."

Bickley, W.A., 14/3/39.

Picking Pullars Cling Peaches in the Goulburn Valley, Victoria.

Apple and Pear Publicity

Splendid Displays at Melbourne "Garden Week"

The Victorian Publicity Section of the Australian Apple and Pear Council co-operated with the Nurserymen and Seedsmen's Association of Victoria in their big Autumn Garden Week enterprise, March 28 to April 1—the biggest horticultural exposition in the Southern Hemisphere.

For many years this has been solely a floral exhibition, but it was decided on this occasion to enlarge the activities and include **fruit and vegetables.**

Realising the importance of this opportunity, an energetic Committee set to work and prepared a very delightful exhibit of Apples and Pears. This forms the subject of the front page of this issue.

Over 60,000 people attended Garden Week. The Apple and Pear stand was staffed day and evening. Pamphlets were distributed and advice given telling when the leading varieties of Apples and Pears were at their best and obtainable on the market. The exhibit had the honor of being awarded a **First Class Certificate.** This is the highest honor that the Garden Week Committee can bestow.

The Apple varieties of the display included Jonathan, Granny Smith, Delicious, Stewarts, Five Crown, Rome Beauty, and Democrat. Pears: Beurre Bosc, Packhams, Winter Cole, Josephine, Winter Nelis, Kieffer, Black Achan, and Madame Cole.

Apples were distributed to 5,000 children. The children attended in organised groups from various schools. These groups were conducted all around the Show; when coming to the Apple and Pear stand, the Secretary of the Apple and Pear Council (Mr. R. E. Boardman) delivered a short address to each group on the value of fruit and health.

The Committee is offering a prize for the best essay on the subject "Why we need Apples every Day."

The Committee also co-operated with the Playgrounds' Association of Victoria and the Free Kindergarten Union. The Playgrounds' Association's display was on the block adjoining the marquee containing the fruit exhibit. Apples were handed to the children each day.

The Garden Week Committee denominated special days, as for instance, Rose Day, Tree Planters' Day, and as Friday, March 31, was declared **"Health and Nutrition Day,"** lectures were delivered as follows: — "The influence of Food on the Nutrition of the Child," by Dr. Isie Younger Ross; "What is Wrong with Modern Diet," by Dr. Cecil D. Hearman, L.D.S., D.D.Sc., Lecturer in Preventive Dentistry, Melbourne University; "Pleasure in Eating and Good Nutrition," by Professor (Dr.) W. A. Osborne.

A summary of these lectures will be published in due course in this Journal. Summed up, emphasis was laid on the fact that **people are not eating sufficient fruit and vegetables.** Dr. Hearman emphasised the value of **eating an Apple after every meal, and one last thing at night.** He stated that the health of growing children would be safeguarded if they ate **six Apples every day.**

Mr. J. B. Mills, President, Apple and Pear Council, presided at Dr. Hearman's lecture, and stated the Council was co-operating with Health Authorities in advocating the increased use of fruit for the health of the people.

The Chairman of the Committee handling this important enterprise was Mr. F. Petty. Other helpers included Messrs. H. J. & E. Noonan, W. A. Thiele, W. P. Mair, D. Whitten, W. P. Hutchinson, F. Cave and R. Morriss. A special word of appreciation is due to Mr. R. Morriss, Victorian Department of Agriculture, who designed the exhibit and supervised its erection.

Considerable press publicity was received both in connection with the fine display of Apples and Pears and the excellent lectures which were delivered. Those who assisted in staffing the stand stated they believed this enterprise to be one of the most important pieces of educational work yet attended to.

As the result of the popularity of the exhibit and the keen interest displayed by the public, the Garden Week Committee are desirous of making it an annual feature.

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VICTORIA

Somerville Show.

Despite adverse weather conditions there was a splendid display of fruit and vegetables at the recent Somerville (Vic.) Show. The Granny Smith Apples on view were among the best seen for a long time.

The Gerrard Shield for district group packing was won by the Somerville State School. The winner of the trophy for two cases of Apples packed under the supervision of a representative of the Department of Agriculture, by a child under 16 years of age, was won by Dorothy Dennett.

Kath. Monk won the section for two cases of Pears packed under similar circumstances. G. Shaw was the winner under 21 of one case. The Gerrard Trophy for the best packed case of Apples suitable for export was won by Hilda Westaway.

Apples: Mr. J. D. Grant won a big series of prizes, as also did Mr. W. F. Boe. The varieties included Jonathan, Delicious, Five Crown, Duke of Clarence, Granny Smith, Alfriston, Rome Beauty, Statesman, etc. Messrs. G. Brunning won the prize for 4 cases export Apples and other prizes. Messrs. G. G. Cole and Sons were second in the entry for 4 cases export Apples, and for nine varieties suitable for export.

Other prizes were won by Messrs. W. T. Thornell, J. H. Roberts, A. J. Benton, G. E. Shepherd, R. J. Thornell, A. E. Thornell, F. L. Twyford, A. E. Dennett, C. G. Benton, T. W. White, C. C. Barber, E. J. Murray.

Pears: Mr. W. F. Boe scored with export and other varieties, and prizes were also won by Messrs. F. J. Mills, J. Brunning and Sons, R. J. Mair, J. Haddock, Barbara Murray, T. W. White, A. E. Thornell, C. G. Benton, A. S. Unthank, A. J. Benton, J. Roberts, G. C. Shepherd, C. G. Cole and Sons. Among the varieties were B. Bosc. Josephines, B. D'Anjou, Winter Nelis, Winter Cole, W.B.C., Kieffer, Howell, Clairgeau, etc.

Other fruits shown included Plums, Peaches, Lemons, Grapes, etc. The vegetables and flowers were of a choice quality. The cookery and school sections created much interest.

There were many interesting ring events, and first-rate exhibits of poultry, dogs, and sheep.

DIAMOND CREEK SHOW.

In spite of the unfavorable season the exhibits at the Fifty-Fifth Annual Show of the Damond Creek Horticultural Society were of a very high standard. Mr. W. H. Everard, M.L.A., spoke in terms of appreciation.

The Championship Shield (six varieties of Apples and four of Pears) was won for the sixth successive year by Wadeson Bros., with 68 points, the same growers receiving the second award with 63 points. J. Cowin (61 points) was third.

MOULD CONTROL IN COOL STORES.

The Editor acknowledges receipt of a lengthy letter from New Air Pty. Ltd., of Waterloo, N.S.W., commenting on the article on "Mould Control in Cool Stores," which appeared in the January, 1939, edition of the "Fruit World and Market Grower," and setting out the value of "Ozone" in connection with cool storage.

Lettuce, no matter how limp and wilted it may be, will look crisp and fresh if soaked for a couple of hours in cold water to which has been added a teaspoonful of sugar.

Victorian Fruit Crops

HORTICULTURAL conditions in Victoria for the month March are reviewed in a report issued by the Department of Agriculture.

As anticipated, the excellent rains late in February, which were followed by further good rains in March, have been valuable in bringing up to size the mid-season and late varieties of **Apples** and **Pears**. The position in the Horsham district is still acute and unless good rains fall very soon the late varieties of Apples will not be harvested. Some trouble has been experienced in some southern districts, notably the Mornington Peninsula, with a fungal rot developing from the calyx of the Apple.

The Apple and Pear harvest is now well advanced but, owing to the drought, crops are very greatly reduced in quantity. In more favored districts such as Gippsland, the fruit is of good color and quality. During March Codling Moth has been relatively inactive, and the amount of late infection will be much less than usual.

Following the heavy rains many pome and stone fruit trees are in partial blossom. This is most noticeable in the driest situations where the trees have been virtually in a dormant condition and have reacted to the rains by commencing a new cycle of growth. But the benefits of the rain in promoting normal bud development for next season far outweigh this factor.

Stone fruits, particularly **Apricots**, have already shown the benefit of the good rains.

Conditions during March were ideal for the establishment of **cover crops**, and many growers are wisely encouraging the good natural growth of weeds for ploughing under in the Spring.

Earlier estimates for a medium crop of Navel Oranges with Grapefruit, Lemons and Valencia Oranges a little heavier have not changed.

The **Tomato** crops in the Bendigo district have been improved greatly by the rains, but in the north-east excess water in some cases causing flooding has interfered with normal ripening.

Almonds have been harvested in the north-east and are of good quality considering the season. **Walnuts**, too, are of good quality, although a little smaller than usual, and the crop is heavy.

Vine Crops Suffer.

In all **vinegrowing areas** heavy rains and humid conditions have been experienced during the harvesting period, and the **Sultana** crop has suffered particularly. This fruit is drying very slowly on the racks where some mould wastage is noticeable, while the unpicked Sultanas are deteriorating rapidly. It is difficult at this stage to estimate production. At Swan Hill it has been roughly estimated that a drop of 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. compared with the production of the previous year, will be experienced, and the quality will be much lower.

The Muscat Gordo Blanco has been largely spoilt for the fresh fruit market, but not for drying purposes, while the Walthams, although not badly damaged, require much more cleaning and trimming than is usually necessary for the fresh fruit markets. The Ohanez export Grape is carrying a very heavy crop of apparently good Grapes.

At Great Western the vintage was very light, and at Rutherglen the crop was unusually light. At this latter centre fourteen inches of rain were recorded in as many days during vintage, but most growers report very little damage.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas

GENEROUS RAINS RELIEVE PRODUCERS' PROBLEMS — RICE CROP NOW ASSURED — EXCELLENT SEASON FOR GRAPES, BUT SOME DAMAGE RESULTS TO DRIED VINE FRUIT CROPS — VALUE OF DEHYDRATORS — CANNING PEACH CROP ALSO AFFECTED BY RAIN — VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN TO ERADICATE RED SCALE — CITRUS CROPS LIGHTER THAN LAST SEASON — FINE RESPONSE.

(By Our Correspondent.)

AT LAST the prolonged drought has broken, and the tense feeling of apprehension which has so long prevailed is relaxed.

The welcome rains which have fallen during the past two weeks have completely altered the position of the rice growers and pastoralists and the rice crops should now be fully matured and ready to harvest within the next few weeks.

Although up to date the falls reported from the catchment area of the Burrinjuck Reservoir are not such as to materially increase the storage, yet the Tumut River and other tributaries of the Murrumbidgee are flowing strongly, and the water flow from below the dam will be of sufficient magnitude to allow all rice crops to be fully supplied, and leave orchardists with no fear of a shortage to mature their green manure crops and the coming citrus crop.

The country surrounding the irrigation area is also showing up the green tinge of coming grass, and with further good falls of rain to follow, a good season should be assured for the pastoralists and large station owners of those great areas which surround the irrigation centres.

Already the prices of sheep and other stock have firmed, and larger areas than were at first contemplated will be put under crop for the coming year.

In some districts, however, the falls have been abnormal, and considerable damage has been recorded by washouts and floodings, but with the great hearts of the people who live close to nature those farmers who have suffered through excess of water after the prolonged drought take everything in good part and are making ready to resow. To quote the words of the poet Spencer:

"We plough and sow and harrow, then
sit down and pray for rain,
And then we all get flooded out, and
have to start again."

Yet, in spite of all, a greater feeling of optimism prevails where a very short time ago the dread of a long dry and cold Winter caused the farmers many a qualm of fear for the future.

The rice crops are nearing maturity, and the vivid green of this cereal stands out in sharp contrast to the other crops, and viewed from the top of Scenic Hill the panorama which spreads out before one's eyes is one which causes exclamations of astonishment and pleasure from the numerous visitors who are being more and more attracted to these Areas.

The rain delayed the picking of the **Grapes** somewhat, and caused some damage to thin skinned varieties, and it will probably delay the ripening of the late variety of **Ohanez**, which are not testing up to the necessary Baumé reading that is required for the Grapes to pass for export.

Growers generally are of the opinion that the Grape season is fully a fortnight later than last year, yet the quality of the Cornichons is excellent, although in some cases the full deep purple color is lacking, and the fruit is inclining to redness.

Nevertheless, the size and appearance when packed is most attractive, and many growers who process their own fruit are quite content with the prices so far obtained.

Gordo Blanco Muscatels have realised higher prices than have been obtained for years, owing to the depletion of the crops in other districts by the drought conditions, and even Black Muscats (which, on account of their thinner skin do not generally stand the long rail journey to Sydney) have realised good prices, and this season the quality of this particular variety has been exceptional.

Doradillos have been very heavy this season, and of fine quality, and it is possible that a large quantity of this Grape will be placed on the fresh fruit market, as their tough skins stand up to the weather conditions better than the Muscats.

Generally speaking the season this year throughout has been an excellent one for fresh fruit of every kind, and it is to be hoped that the wine-grape growers will not suffer by the heavy rains.

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A strong effort has been made by the Wine Grape Growers' Association to obtain the sanction of Parliament to permit the sale of light wines during longer hours than at present permitted, in restaurants and hotels, so that the consumption of these with meals will be stimulated. The application has, however, been turned down, and this, together with the lower price being paid by the various wineries for Grapes this season, combined with the unfavorable season for picking which now prevails, the outlook for the growers of wine-grape varieties is not so favorable as in past seasons.

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The adverse weather conditions have also spoilt the quality of the **Sultana** crop, and although this variety is gradually being eliminated from orchards on these Areas, yet there is still a fair acreage, and those growers who harvested early obtained a very fair sample of fruit, but where the vines carried heavy foliage and the crop was greener, the fruit which still remains on the racks is going dark in color, and although with a few days of better weather the fruit may be finally dried, yet the quality will suffer.

Prune growers also are likely to be heavy losers, as the heavy falls of rain have beaten the fruit from the trees and it has had to be picked up out of the wet ground and washed, prior to dipping, which has softened it still more, and other growers are finding the fruit showing signs of mildew on the drying trays.

Some of the growers with large areas of Prunes have used the dehydrator in past years with undoubted succes, and with the likelihood of early breaks in the season, which almost invariably occur in these parts it will probably become the practice to instal small dehydraters for finishing off the drying in adverse weather.

The prices for the wine Grapes this season range from £5 to £7 per ton, with rises and falls according to the Baumé readings of the fruit test, a drop in price from last season.

The canning Peach crop has suffered to some extent by the rain, and probably a greater quantity will have to go into the jam standard than into the higher graded canning fruit.

The crop has been a heavy one, and the fruit has sized up better than was anticipated, but where thinning was not practised, the fruit has bunched and remained small, with the tendency also to ripen up unevenly.

Some truly splendid loads of **Pullars Peaches** have been noted, and also on some of the best cultivated farms, the **Golden Queen** variety sized to very large proportions, and also carried heavy crops.

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Leeton sustains a great loss in losing its valued citizen, Mr. A. G. Enticknap, who has taken over the management of the Yenda Producers' Packing Shed.

At a complimentary dinner which was tendered to Mr. Enticknap at the Hydro Hotel, very high tributes were paid to this gentleman's integrity, ability and courage in voicing his opinions on all problems of importance connected with the welfare not only of Leeton, but the whole district.

Particularly was his great service to the reconstructed Leeton Cannery, stressed, and he was acknowledged to have been the man who was the driving power that carried the reconstruction through to a successful issue.

The Yenda Producers' Company are fortunate in obtaining the able services of a man of Mr. Enticknap's calibre, and it is to be hoped that under his management the company will overcome all its past difficulties and become the successful co-operative effort that it was hoped would result when it was first formed.

Mr. Enticknap, who has been on the Leeton end of the Area since 1912, has held many positions of importance, and in every one he has held the respect and admiration of his adherents for his unfailing integrity and straight speaking.

What is Leeton's loss will certainly be Yenda's gain, and the heartfelt good wishes of his many admirers go with him into his new sphere of action.

Mr. Enticknap was one of the first Shire Councillors of the Willimbong Shire when it was formed, and his valuable work will long be remembered.

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The campaign waged against the **Red Scale** pest has been rigorously continued, and close examination of citrus orchards has been maintained **with the object, if possible, of eradicating this serious menace to the citrus industry** while it has received the severe check which it has undoubtedly done from the long spell of abnormally hot weather.

Although little or any scale could be observed on many farms, yet the owners would take no risks, and many growers have fumigated their trees as a precautionary measure, under the advice of the inspectors and the officers of the Entomological Branch.

In the Yenda district an effort has also been made to fumigate blocks in sections, so that every farm growing citrus which adjoins another may be fumigated at the same time, thus minimising the risk of future infestation.

In many cases where trees were heavily infested last season, and have been fumigated this year, a complete kill has been noted, and it is sincerely hoped that the crop this season will be very free from this menace.

Every year the regulations are being tightened by the Agricultural Department, and growers are realising that unless perfectly clean fruit is produced and marketed, that their chance of selling it is slight, and with the view of retaining the valuable New Zealand market for their citrus, it behoves every grower to do his utmost to assist the packing sheds in their endeavor to forward nothing but the best and cleanest fruit, and thus obtain for the Irrigation Area citrus that place in the market which its merits undoubtedly deserve.

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The citrus crop this season is very light in most places, and although Valencias have developed a rather better crop than the Navels, it is not expected that the citrus crop generally will be nearly as large as last season.

On some farms remarkably good settings are to be noted, while on others exceptionally light crops are in evidence, and with this aspect the fruit will have a tendency to large sizes, specially in the Navel crop. Probably with the smaller crop the prices may enhance in value and thus compensate to some extent, but even now it is difficult to definitely form an estimate, as often much fruit is hidden inside the trees, and does not show up to full advantage until the coloring takes place.

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Good crops of **Almonds** have been harvested this year, but the price so far offered by buyers is not too satisfactory, 11d. per lb. for Hatchs Nonpareil, and 7d. per lb. for most of the other varieties is not too attractive when picking and husking costs 2d. per lb.

It is understood that there is a short crop of Almonds in South Australia this season, and it might pay growers to hold off for a time in the hope of an improvement in price.

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Both Leeton and Griffith are well to the fore in the new recruiting campaign, both districts having greatly exceeded their quota in volunteers for this branch of the Service.

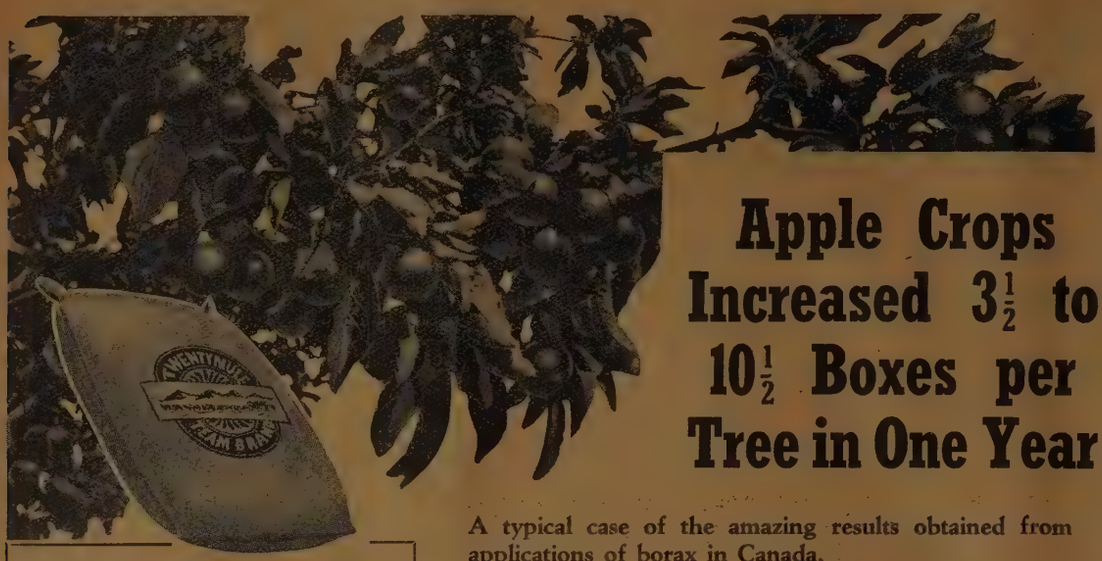
During the month the new recruits entrained for camp, and considering the majority of the men from Griffith had only had four parades, their marching and appearance was a great credit.

Leeton's contingent which joined the troop train later on, has been formed for about 18 months, and their men have already received full kit, but even in the fatigue uniforms which were supplied, the men showed up well and both towns are to be congratulated on the fine patriotic spirit which prevails, and have just cause to be proud of the youth of the district who voluntarily answer the call to arms, in such numbers. No districts in this State have had a greater response, and the spirit of their Anzac fathers is still evidently inherited.

The Griffith Troop of the 21st Light Horse Regiment entrained, with their horses for camp at Wagga this week, and parading under the command of Lieut. F. G. Beverley, formed a fine well mounted troop.

The Regiment, 500 strong, will meet at Wagga and train for twelve days, and competitions among the troops from surrounding areas will take place also.

Last year this Griffith troop brought back the coveted Prince of Wales trophy, for the best turned out troop, and the men are all keen to retain it.



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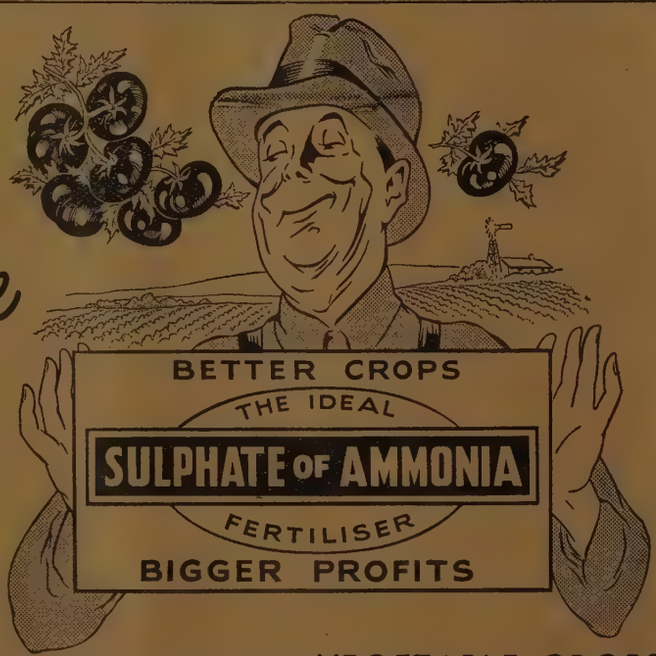

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EMPIRE FRUIT CONFERENCE.

London, June.

The Empire Fruits Council has decided to convene an Empire Fruits Conference from June 21 to 30, 1939. A comprehensive agenda has been drawn up.

One of the matters for consideration will be the possibility of enlarging the scope of the Council, and possibly the calling of an International Fruit Conference. The latter would envisage effective contact particularly with America on the subject of implementing of the Anglo-U.S.A. Trade Treaty.

The matter of educational publicity to increase the consumption of Apples and Pears will be discussed.

SAN MARZANA TOMATO.

Has Possibilities of Outstanding Value.

RECENT TESTS in N.S.W. have shown that the San Marzana Tomato, imported from Italy, has a higher solids content, and produces a much better color than any known type, besides carrying and keeping very well.

The Dept. of Agriculture has been carrying out experiments for the past few years, and experts hold the opinion that with improved seed selection and cultural work this Tomato should have a great future. Tests carried out on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area last year realised yields of up to 19 tons per acre.

The variety has several defects, but in the opinion of Mr. J. Douglass, Special Agricultural Instructor, the San Marzana Tomato, grown correctly from selected seed, has a great future.

ORCHARD REGISTRATION IN N.S.W.

Fruitgrowers in N.S.W. are reminded that although registration of orchards and nurseries, as required by the Plant Diseases Act, 1924, became due on January 1 last, a number of persons have not done so. A penalty of up to £50 is provided for failure to register before February 28 each year, and in previous years the Department has been forced to prosecute many.

The regulations provide detailed specifications relating to hygiene, to which packing sheds must conform before they can be registered.

FRUIT JUICES.

C.S.I.R. will Conduct Investigations.

Because of the increased consumption of fruit juices in foreign countries, the Minister in charge of Scientific Research (Mr. Casey) has announced that arrangements are being made for the Scientific and Industrial Research Council to conduct investigations into the production of fruit juices. The investigations will cover a wide range, including citrus, Pineapple, Tomato, and Passionfruit, and will be carried out by the Council's Food Preservation Section at Homebush, N.S.W.

Production in Germany has been increased from two and a half to 50 million litres in recent years, and in the United States the production is now 30,000,000 cases a year.

N.S.W. Fruit Industry Inquiry

Interesting Report by Royal Commissioner

RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE PROHIBITION OF SALE OF COOLED STORED APPLES (EXCEPT DEMOCRAT) AFTER OCTOBER — IMPORTATION OF CANADIAN APPLES IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER — MARKETS TO REMAIN UNDER CITY COUNCIL CONTROL — AMENDMENTS TO FARM AGENTS ASSOCIATION — RETAILERS TO SELL ACCORDING TO GRADE AND SIZE, PLUS PRICE FIXATION — EXPORT BOUNTY ON APPLES AND ORANGES FOR FIVE YEARS — ENLARGEMENT OF ACTIVITIES OF FRUITGROWERS' FEDERATION ACTIVITIES — ORCHARD TAX TO YIELD £20,000 PER ANNUM.

These Recommendations Will Receive Consideration.

The long awaited report of the N.S.W. Fruit Industry Commissioner, Mr. J. E. McCulloch, S.M. has been tabled at the N.S.W. Parliament.

The following summary will enable a general grasp of the report to be obtained.

The Commissioner estimates that 40 per cent. of the Fruitgrowers in N.S.W. are not working their areas in a satisfactory manner.

Failure of growers he considers is due to over-capitalisation, inefficiency, unsuitable soils, non-commercial varieties, low yields, insufficient acreage, adverse weather conditions, and defective cultural operations.

"Growers," he adds, "can improve their circumstances by better management and cultural methods, an increase in per tree or per acre production, a decrease in per case cost of production, and the creation of a growers' control organisation (as distinct from a marketing board) to undertake or supervise activities of benefit to growers—bulk buying, bulk loading, a case exchange, wholesale selling, and packing standards.

The Banana Industry.

"The inquiry disclosed," the Commissioner reports "that the Banana section, despite strong opposition to the Banana Marketing Board, was the best organised section of the fresh fruit industry: the decision to dissolve it can only be regarded as a tragedy."

The Commissioner recommends that the State Parliament should legislate to continue the existence of the Banana Marketing Board.

"The Marketing of Primary Products Act," he said, "has worked well in practice. Generally, however, it is not suitable to the peculiar needs of the fruit industry, especially as it is not considered necessary or desirable to attempt complete control of the Marketing of fresh fruit in all its phases."

Complementary legislation is advocated to provide for the setting up of a marketing board to examine as much or little of marketing operations as growers desire.

City Market Control.

Concerning matters covered by the extension of his commission, Mr. Mc Culloch said that between 1933 and 1937, a new technique had been introduced into the practices in the City Markets.

"'Purchasing' companies," he added, "were formed (which subsequently became proprietary companies), to which certain farm produce agents sold the whole or major portion of their consignments. The company occupied the same selling floor as the agent.

"The new system enabled the agent to quit his consignments quickly, render account sales promptly, comply with the provisions of the Farm Produce Agents Act, evade certain responsibilities under that Act, avoid bad debts and claims for rebates, decrease his 'overhead' expenses, and avoid risk of wastage.

"From an examination of the transactions and accounts of these 'purchasing' companies, the Commissioner concluded that they were never intended to make profits commensurate with the volume of their turnover; that the system might be made the avenue of irregular or dishonest practices, but that it did not call for condemnation because of this opportunity."

The Commissioner recommends the adoption of 7 a.m. as a uniform opening hour for both fruit and vegetable markets, condemns the proposal to create a Markets Commission or Trust for the control of the City Markets, and recommends that they be left in the jurisdiction of the City Council.

The erection of a new fruit market, capable of housing agents, merchants, and jobbers in one building, surrounded by exterior public roadways, providing internal longitudinal one-way traffic roads, and adequate and proper light and ventilation, is also recommended.

Regarding the city markets, the Commission recommended the licensing and supervision of all operators (including "purchasing" companies) in the fruit markets; entry of varieties and grades or sizes on account sales; prohibition of canvassers; registration of buyers; recording of cash and credit sales at the time of sale, with registered buyer's name or number; penalties for "averaging," "adjusting," or "loading" of prices; recording of cool-store operations; issue of condemnation certificates free of costs, and purchase of "tail-ends" of consignments by agents.

Other Recommendations.

included substitution of a farm produce agents' fidelity guarantee fund for the existing bond system; provision of a **hail insurance scheme** through the Government Insurance Office, extension of the activities of the Director of Fruit Culture and Director of Marketing to obtain and record information relating to costs of production.

Extension of the fruit grading regulations to retail selling; **prohibition of the sale of cold storage pome fruits (except Democrat Apples) after the end of October; permission for the importation of Canadian Apples during November and December.**

Maintenance of the N.S.W. standard of export inspection; provision for inspection of export fruit at packing centre, and the prescription of a national mark for export packs.

Growers' Indebtedness.

The report suggests discontinuance of financial assistance and support to growers, who are inefficient or negligent, or are located on unsuitable soils, in unsuitable districts, or at unfavourable altitudes.

Concerning by-products

of the fruitgrowing industry, Mr. McCulloch said that the only avenue which appeared to afford a reasonable opportunity to treat surplus fruit was the **manufacture of fresh fruit juices,** and the salvage of other by-products.

The Commissioner recommends that the Commonwealth and State Governments should assist efforts to produce and market pure Apple and citrus juice drinks, by scientific research and co-operation, reduced railway freights, loans against initial capital costs, subsidy towards publicity, stimulation of avenues for distribution, and the prohibition of the use of fruit names for synthetic products.

£20,000 Registration Fee.

In connection with the orchard registration fee, the Commissioner said that the funds of the Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W. had been expended to the advantage of the industry, and the salaries and expenses had not been excessive.

The Commissioner recommends that the orchard registration fee should be increased to raise £20,000 per annum (Details are given later in this report.)

Summary of Recommendations.

The following summary of the Commissioner's findings as drawn up by the Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W. is as follow:—

1. Exercise greater care in the selection of sites—suitability of district, altitude, aspect, contemplated classes and varieties of fruit and side crops, and weather conditions should be carefully weighed. (Part iii, chapter 4.)
2. Re-work or re-place non-commercial varieties, and varieties unsuited to particular districts. Subject to limitations and conditions, make loans available to secure the re-working of such varieties. (Part iii, chapter 3.)
3. Vest in some Department and/or governmental agency specific authority to control plantings and avoid over-production; consider particularly the position of Bananas, Sultanas, Lexias, Currants, Canning Peaches and Wine Grapes. (Part iii, chapter 4.)
4. Increase Departmental efforts to secure control of Fruit Fly and Codling Moth, and discover a commercial control for Black Spot in citrus and Brown Rot in stone fruits. (Part iii, chapter 5.)
5. Provide a hail insurance scheme, at reasonable rates, through the Government Insurance Office, to enable growers to mitigate losses occasioned by hail damage, and subsidise such scheme by grants from the Orchard Registration Fee. (Part iii, chapter 7.)
6. Improve the standard of management, efficiency, cultural practices and disease control; thereby increase the yield per acre and the proportion of good quality fruit, and effect a reduction in the per bushel cost of production. (Part iii, chapter 8.)
7. Extend the activities of the Director of Fruit Culture and Director of Marketing to obtain, and record, over a range of years, information relating to the costs involved in production. (Part iii, chapter 8.)
8. Discontinue financial assistance and support to growers who are inefficient, or negligent, or who are located on unsuitable soils, in unsuitable districts or at unfavourable altitudes. (Part VI.)
9. Vest power and discretion in some single authority, or governmental agency, to review the indebtedness of growers, of average efficiency and on suitable soil (particularly in the coastal districts, and at Kentucky and Young Group Settlements), and write off either wholly or in part, or suspend or allow further time for the payment of any debt due to the Crown, or to the Rural Bank of N.S.W. (Part VI.)
10. Convert into grants, the loans (or loan balances) made to citrus growers in coastal districts in 1935, 1936 and/or 1937 for the purchase of fertilisers and sprays—the amount involved is less than three thousand pounds (£3,000.) (Part VI.)
11. Stimulate the reduction of Mandarin acreage (where trees exceed six, but do not exceed twenty-five years of age) by payment to growers, if trees be replaced or re-worked, of an allowance on terms and conditions similar to those applied under the Mandarin grant (1934), except that growers who received an allowance in 1934 shall not be eligible for any additional allowance. (Part VI.)
12. Leave the erection, control and supervision of market buildings to the jurisdiction of the City Council of Sydney. (Part VII, chapter 7.)
13. Erect a new fruit market—
    (i) capable of housing agents, merchants, and jobbers in one building.
    (ii) surrounded by exterior public roadways.
    (iii) providing internal longitudinal one-way traffic roads—as in the producers' market.
    (iv.) providing light and ventilation—as in the producers' market. (Part VII, chapter 7.)
14. Provide a uniform opening hour 7 a.m. for the City fruit and vegetable markets. (Part VII, chapter 7.)
15. Allow "purchasing companies" to operate in public markets, subject to registration and supervision of activities as a safeguard against latent possibilities for fraud. (Part VII, chapter 9.)
16. Prescribe (by regulation) farm produce agents' commission at a rate not exceeding 10 per cent. of the price realised for the whole, or any part of any consignment, with a proviso allowing the agent to charge a minimum fee of two shillings where a consignment fails to realise one pound (£1)—such rate or fee to include the charges at present made for entry, stamps and stationery and receiving and delivery. (Part VII, chapter 9.)
17. Substitute and farm produce agents' fidelity guarantee fund in lieu of the existing bond system. (Part VII, chapter 10.)
18. Extend the benefit of grading regulations to consumers, by compelling retailers to sell fruit according to the description, grade, and size under which they buy. (Part IV, chapter 4.)

N.S.W. FRUIT INDUSTRY INQUIRY.

Interesting Recommendations.

Some of the recommendations of the N.S.W. Fruit Industry Inquiry Commission are — Prohibition of the sale of cold storage pome fruits (Except Democrat Apples) after the end of October.

Importations of Canadian Apples during November and December.

Compel retailers to indicate to consumers, that cold storage fruit offered for sale is ex-cool store.

Compel retailers to sell fruit according to the description, grade and size under which they buy. Fixation of retail prices. Provide an export bounty on Apples and Oranges for a period of five years, as from January 1, 1939. The regulated admission of N.Z. Potatoes with a view to reciprocal trade in Citrus, Bananas and Cherries.

The Federal State Government to assist efforts to produce Pineapples and citrus fruit drinks; provide loans for initial outlay and funds for publicity.

Enlarge the activities of the Fruitgrowers Federation of N.S.W.; increase fees to raise £20,000 per annum.

19. Compel retailers to indicate to consumers that cold storage fruit offered for sale, is ex-cool stores. (Part VIII, chapter 12.)
20. Prohibit the sale of cold storage pome fruit (except Democrat Apples) after the end of October. (Part VII, chapter 12.)
21. Permit the importation of Canadian Apples during November and December. (Part VII, chapter 12.)
22. Prescribe marketing periods for various classes and varieties of fruit. (Part VII, chapter 12.)
23. Stimulate experiments to produce new varieties of clear centre canning Peaches (late and early maturing) to extend the period of the harvesting and canning season. (Part VII, chapter 13.)
24. Maintain the New South Wales standard of export inspection. (Part VII, chapter 14.)
25. Register or license sheds for the packing of fruit whether for export or local markets. (Part VII, chapter 14.)
26. Prescribe a National mark for use on export packs. (Part VII, chapter 14.)
27. After licensing of packing sheds, arrange for inspection of export fruit at the packing centre, subject to a check inspection at ships side. Part VII, chapter 14.)
28. Provide for payment of an export bounty on Apples and Oranges for a period of five years as from January 1, 1939. (Part VII, chapter 14.)
29. Empower the Minister for Agriculture, by regulation, from time to time, in respect of any prescribed district, or locality or for the whole of New South Wales.
    (a) to fix the retail price at which fruit may be sold;
    (b) to prescribe margins within which fruit may be sold retail:
    (c) to determine the maximum amount by which a retailer may "Mark-up" his purchasing price; or
    (d) to prescribe the maximum percentage of gross profit (calculated on the purchase price) to which a retailer shall be entitled. (Part VI.)
30. Prescribe the cases which may be used for different classes of fruit and reduce the permissible number to a minimum.

    Prohibit the use of second-hand cases for pome and citrus fruits, grown outside the coastal districts. Prohibit the use of second-hand and returnable cases in coastal districts, unless their treatment against diseases and pests and distribution, be controlled by a case exchange. (Part VII., chapt. 17.)
31. Amend the Farm Produce Agents Act, 1926-32, as hereunder:—
    (i) Require all operators in public markets to be licensed, and keep prescribed accounts subject to inspection by the Registrar;
    (ii) direct hearing of applications for farm produce agents' licences, and renewal applications (where objections have been lodged), by a Court of Petty Sessions instead of by the Registrar;
    (iii) substitute a fidelity guarantee fund for the existing bond system;
    (iv) prohibit the employment of canvassers by agents, or payment of moneys by them as consideration for influencing consignments;
    (v) require all buyers, operating in public markets, to register their names and addresses and exhibit to agents and salesmen their registered number;
    (vi) require the preparation at the time of sale, of a docket for all cash sales, and delivery of same to a purchaser with the fruit;
    (vii) prohibit averaging, adjusting or loading of prices
    (viii) regulate forestalling activities;
    (ix) permit agents to purchase tail-ends of consignments and make rebates to purchasers;
    (x) limit the number of agents, who may operate in the City fruit markets;
    (xi) regulate the recording of cold storage transactions; and
    (xii) authorise the issue (free of cost) of certificates of condemnation. (Part VII, chapter 18.)
32. To reduce the price of fruit at distant country centres, eliminate the number of intermediaries in distribution and encourage direct buying from the packing sheds and growers, who can guarantee the standard and quality of their pack. Part VII, chapter 19.)
33. Prescribe that the markings on a case of fruit shall operate as a guarantee of standard, quality, grade and size or count. (Part VII, chapter 20.)
34. Retain the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-34 without amendment. (Part VII, chapter 20.)
35. Provide a complementary statute which may appropriately be intitled the Fruit Marketing Organisation Act, to meet the peculiar needs of the fruit industry, which will enable the constitution of a marketing board to organise and control as much of as little of marketing operations as growers desire and approve. (Part VII, chapter 20.)
36. Provide legislation to assist Departmental activities in aid of the industry:—
    (i) to regulate the grading and handling of fruit—on lines similar to the provision of the (South Australian) "Fruit and Vegetables (Grading) Act 1934";
    (ii) to regulate the standards and sale of insecticides, fungicides, sprays, vermin and weed destroyers—in terms similar to the provisions of the (Queensland) "Pest Destroyers Act of 1923."
    (iii) to prevent injury of fruit in transit—by statutory powers, similar to those contemplated in the (South Australian) "Fruit and Vegetables (Prevention of Injury) Act 1927" and
    (iv) to regulate and control the standard and sale of nursery stock, and to secure compensation for growers who have suffered loss by the supply of nursery stock, which does not correspond with the variety ordered. (Part VII, chapter 21.)
37. Amend regulations under the Irrigation Act 1912-31, to permit the introduction into the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, under proper safeguards, of Bananas, Pineapples, Passion Fruit and Cherries.
38. Create a strong growers' central organisation (as distinct from a marketing board) vested with ap-

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NEW SOUTH WALES FRUIT INDUSTRY INQUIRY—(Continued).

propriate powers, authorities and discretions, to function for and on behalf of growers; including powers to:—

(i) create an umbrella organisation to cover the trading operations of co-operative societies;

(ii) organise and regulate bulk buying activities in the interests of growers;

(iii) organise and regulate bulk loading operations, and

(iv) organise and regulate a case exchange; and

(v) to facilitate direct sales. (Part VIII, chapter 3.)

39. Cultivate a spirit of co-operation and collaboration between the growers' central organisation and the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries. (Part VIII, chapter 3.)

40. Legislate to continue in existence the Banana Marketing Board, until the Government decides whether it will (as recommended) provide, for the fruit industry, legislation complementary to the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-34. (Part VIII, chapter 3.)

41. Extend the operations of the Co-operative Bud Selection Society Ltd., to other fruits, in addition to citrus. (Part VIII, chapter 3.)

42. Encourage the production, and sale, of pure fruit juices as by-products of the Apple and citrus sections of the industry.

Provide a special freight for such juices, manufactured at country centres of fruit production, which will allow transportation in any quantity, at the lowest rate prescribed for fresh fruit. (Part IX.)

43. So far as Commonwealth legislation will allow, prohibit, in connection with soft drinks and synthetic fruit drinks, the use of fruit names, or coined words closely resembling the names of fruit. (Part IX.)

44. Retain and extend the Orchard Registration Fee as hereunder:—

	s.	d.
Areas of one quarter acre or less	2	6
Citrus fruit, tropical fruit, and fruits not elsewhere specified, per acre or part thereof	2	6
Pome fruits, stone fruits and vines, per acre or part thereof	5	0

45. Allocate the Orchard Registration Fee according to principles hereunder illustrated:—

Administration (5%)	£1,000
Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W.	4,000
Additional Inspectors	1,500
Scientific Research, Citrus Black Spot	500
Reserve for research and control of diseases and pests (5%)	1,000
Hail Insurance Subsidy (Part X.)	12,000

46. Submit representations to the Commonwealth Government to permit regulated admission of New Zealand Potatoes into New South Wales, with a view to the reciprocal admission, into New Zealand, of Cherries, Bananas and Citrus grown in coastal districts, where the Department of Agriculture can certify that no fruit fly exists within a radius of one mile from the orchard on which the fruit was produced. (Part III, chapter 5 and Part VII, chapter 14.)

47. Amend the orchard registration form, to secure statistics disclosing

(i) acreage planted to different classes and varieties of fruit, and

(ii) ages of various varieties. (Part III, chapter 2, and Part X.)

VIEWS OF N.S.W. FEDERATION.

The Board of the Federation met, and after due consideration expressed their views on the Commission's findings, as follows:—

Items 1, 2, 3, and 4 accepted.

Item 5, re-Hail Insurance Scheme. It was decided to recommend that "Hail" Insurance be altered to "disaster caused by Act of God." Also it was decided to delete the clause "and subsidise such scheme by grants from the Orchard Registration Fee."

Items 6, and 7 accepted.

Item 8. The discontinuance of financial assistance to fruit growers located on unsuitable soils, was regarded as a drastic measure unless arrangements were made for such men to be re-established on suitable soils, suitable localities and suitable districts.

Items 9, and 10 accepted.

Item 11. It was decided to recommend the deletion of the clause limiting encouragement to reduce the Mandarin acreage to those men who had not received assistance in the Mandarin grant in 1934.

Item 12 accepted.

Item 13. Regarding the erection of a new fruit market, it was decided that provision should also be made to accomodate grower sellers in the one building with agents, merchants, and jobbers.

Items 14, and 15 accepted.

Item 16. The Board decided to recommend that the rate of commission for farm produce agents, should not exceed the present amount of 7½ per cent., but accepted the suggested minimum fee of 2/- where the consignment fails to realise £1.

Items 17, and 18 accepted.

Item 19. Discussion on this matter was deferred pending receipt of the Commissioner's report.

Items 20, and 21. It was decided that both these recommendations should not be acceded to.

Items 22 to 28 accepted.

Items 29 and 30. Discussion of these matters was adjourned pending receipt of the Commissioner's report.

Item 31. This was accepted with the exception of sub-clause 10, which was altered to read "limit the number of agents who may operate."

Items 32 to 38 accepted.

Item 39. It was decided to recommend that this be altered to read "cultivate a spirit of co-operation and collaboration between growers central organisation and the component parts of the industry.

Items 40 to 43 accepted.

Item 44. Considerable discussion took place on this recommendation and it was decided to request that the Orchard Registration Fee remain as at present with a minimum of 2/6 for areas ¼ of an acre or less.

Item 45. The suggested alterations to item 44, would have considerable bearing upon the Commissioner's suggested allocations of the Orchard Registration Fee in that the amount would be considerably reduced and it was decided to recommend as follows:—

	£
Administration (5%)	500
Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W.	4,000
Scientific Research	500

Items 46 and 47 accepted.

It was resolved that a letter of appreciation be sent to the State Premier thanking him and the Government for initiating the Commission of Inquiry and also to express appreciation to Mr. J. E. McCulloch, the Commissioner on his comprehensive and thorough report.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Lively comments have already been made in various quarters on the summary of the report so far made available.

The President of the Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W. (General J. Heane), counsels the withholding of judgment on what are deemed contentious matters until the full report is available for study in detail.

"I am prepared to state, however," continued General Heane, that I am impressed by the comprehensiveness of the summary issued by the Royal Commissioner, including as it does, his recommendation for action that, in his opinion, would cause improvements in the industry, from the point of production to that of consumption.

"An outstanding feature of the recommendation is the reference to the **price spread between producer and consumer and the suggestion that the retailers' margin of profit should be fixed.** This may appear radical and to many an impractical suggestion. Before pronouncing a considered opinion on this matter, however, it is well to bear in mind that those recommendations have been made by the Commissioner after a very long and exhaustive inquiry into the industry, and I believe that when the complete report is available it will throw further light on this subject by giving the reasons for such conclusions being reached and perhaps indicating the manner in which this particular matter might be dealt with. There can be no doubt that it has been the common opinion amongst the consuming public that fruit has been too dear and if something can be done, which will result in quicker sale of our perishable product and therefore less wastage, the producer and the consumer should thereby benefit.

An examination of the complete report will in my opinion, result in fruitgrowers throughout the state examining every phase of the industry and attempting to apply more businesslike methods to the disposal of their product, which is such a necessity in the diet of the people.

Col. E E. Herrod, Secretary of the Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W. heartily commends that section of the report dealing with pure fruit drinks. He suggests that the Pure Foods Act should be revised to eliminate, as far as possible, all synthetic fruit drinks. "Germany, Italy, and other European nations are often decried for their methods," he said, "but the fact remains that in these countries it is **compulsory to manufacture drinks which consist of fruit juices and sugar only.**"

There is a general shaking of heads among wholesalers and retailers, regarding the proposal to fix prices. It is pointed out that no two growers send in a similar quality or size of fruit. The same applies to vegetables. There would need to be scores of prices for different articles to give a fair deal to the public.

At a meeting of Banana growers at Tweed Heads, appreciation was expressed for the remarks of the Commissioner on the Banana Industry.

Members of the Orchardists and Fruit Cool Stores Association of Victoria definitely disagree with the findings of the Commissioner regarding the proposal that fruit should be labelled "ex-cool store." The great bulk of the Apples and Pears offered to the public would need to be labelled in this way and considering the general uninformed mind of the public, the effect would be disastrous to the industry and of no assistance to the public. Some varieties of Apples, such as Yates, Statesman, Delicious and others actually improve in cool store. It is pointed out that in the opinion of high medical authorities, Apples, Pears and Oranges do not lose their food and health qualities by reasonable cool storage.

On the other hand, there is agreement with the Commissioner in the general principle that these fruits should not be overstored and that stale fruit should not be offered to the public.

Regarding the proposed importation of Canadian Apples, anyone can by an argument on the fire blight question. Some growers genuinely fear fire blight, others accept the state-

APPLES FOR MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Case of Apples Sent from Queensland.

A case of Queensland Apples from The Summit, near Stanthorpe, for the British Prime Minister (Mr. Chamberlain) was shipped from Brisbane in the Dunedin Star. The gift is a token of appreciation from growers and the Department of Agriculture for Mr. Chamberlain's efforts for peace.

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ment of scientists, that there is absolutely no danger of the importation of fire blight on fruit from districts free from this trouble.

The value to the public in receiving fresh Apples is generally admitted.

The Citrus Growers' Defence Association opposed the fixation of fruit prices, also the proposal to increase the orchard registration fee, they desire discontinuance of the orchard registration fee entirely.

MR. A. E. HERRING'S VIEWS.

Proposed Increase of Orchard Tax Objected To.

To the Editor,

Sir,—Whilst there are many aspects of the Commissioner's report that will be welcomed by growers, it would appear that the fairly general support accorded to a tax of one shilling per acre to support their own organisation has been interpreted as a willingness on their part to submit to further direct taxation for the purposes which can hardly be regarded as solely their concern.

As taxpayers, the producers and consumers alike, contribute to the maintenance of our Agricultural Department, and throughout the world to-day there is an army of scientists maintained at huge cost who protect civilisation from the loss or the partial loss of its food supplies. That service is rendered to the whole people, and the cost should be borne by the people, and it is indeed, a new departure to suggest that scientific research in connection with food supplies should be borne by a section only of the people of a state.

Yours truly,
A. E. HERRING,

Batlow, March 9.

AID FOR GROWERS SOUGHT.

It has been suggested to the N.S.W. Minister for Agriculture by two members of the Fruitgrowers' Federation (Messrs. P. W. James and F. B. Mackenzie) that the Government might consider a grant of £10,000 to growers who suffered during the bushfire, and will continue to do so for two or three more years.

The Minister promised to place these views before the Ministerial sub-committee which is dealing with relief to fruitgrowers.

Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W.

A meeting of the Board of the Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W. was held at Sydney on March 8 and 9, 1939.

There were present: General J. Heane (in the chair), Messrs. A. U. Tonking (Orange), F. B. Mackenzie (Kurrajong), W. C. Dickinson (Young), K. H. Todd (Griffith), P. W. James (Dural), A. S. Brown (Ourimbah), H. A. Stevenson (Murwillumbah), A. J. Taylor (Warkworth), L. T. Pearce (Market Representative), and E. E. Herrod (Secretary).

Chief amongst the matters discussed were the following:—

Palestine Grape Fruit.

A request was received from the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Queensland, suggesting co-operation in an approach to the Federal Government with a view to both limiting the total imports of Grapefruit and also of limiting the period in which they can be imported at the present rate of duty. It was pointed out that the industry in this country enjoyed a natural preference of 15/- to 17/- a bushel allowing for the bare cost of the fruit and that imports would not be likely to continue after March. The Queensland product usually arrives on the Sydney market late in March and last season sold at from 12/- to 20/- per bushel, whilst the Palestine imported product sold at 35/- per double case. Imports during 1939 had apparently exceeded expectations, and prices had been at from 20/- to 28/-, so that those persons responsible for marketing the product would be reluctant to continue, once the Australian Grapefruit was available. In the absence of definite information regarding quantities being introduced, it was decided to delay action pending the receipt of this information.

British Empire Producers' Conference.

The President, General J. Heane, was elected to represent the Fruitgrowers' Federation at the British Empire Producers' Conference, to be held at Canberra during April. This conference is being held with the purpose of forming an Australian national producers' organisation in relation to the exporting of primary products as suggested at the Empire Conference held during March and April last year.

Hurricane and Fire Damage.

Previous representations have been made to the Minister for Agriculture regarding relief for necessitous cases as a result of the hurricane and fire damage sustained during the past Summer and in the interests of the producers concerned it was decided that further representations for some monetary relief be made upon the return of the Minister to the city.

Embargo Abolition League of Australia.

The operations of the above League were reported by several Board members, and in view of the sympathy of the Fruitgrowers' Federation with citrus growers affected by the embargo between the two countries, it was decided that a substantial sum should be granted towards recent expenses incurred.

Australian Apple and Pear Board.

Correspondence was received from the Commonwealth Government inviting nominations by the Fruitgrowers' Federation for appointment to this Board. On a poll of those present being taken, Mr. A. U. Tonking M.L.A., and Mr. E. Ray, of Bathurst, received the nomination of the Board.

Royal Commission of Inquiry.

Considerable time was devoted to consideration of a summary of recommendations contained in the Commissioner's report. Decisions of many of the summarized recommendations were deferred pending receipt of the complete report, but upon some matters tentative decisions were made (see report on another page).

BURRINJUCK DAM.

Reconditioning Will Cost £1,850,000.

The N.S.W. Government has adopted recommendation for reconditioning the Burrinjuck Dam, at a cost of £1,850,000. The work will employ 400 men for a period of five to seven years. This recommendation has been made as a result of a report by the Government's engineering consultants that the dam in its present position, with its slender cross-sections and restricted spillways, was a source of danger, as it could not be said to be safe for major flood conditions.

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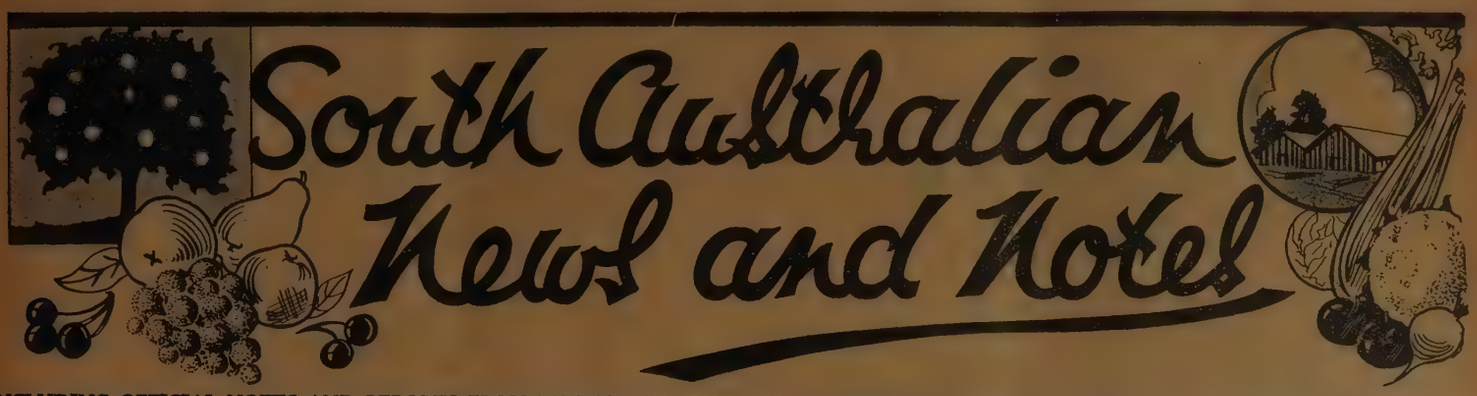

INCLUDING OFFICIAL NOTES AND REPORTS FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FRUITGROWERS' & MARKET GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION.

The South Australian Fruitgrowers' & Market Gardeners' Association Incorp.

MONTHLY EXECUTIVE MEETING

THE March meeting of the Executive Committee of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association was held in the Board Room at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, March 31, 1939.

Mr. W. J. Bishop (President) presided over the meeting attended by Messrs. H. B. Robson, W. H. Ind, J. B. Randall, C. J. Pitt, C. W. Giles, C. H. Ragless, M. Packer, C. Ridley, N. T. Hobbs, H. N. Wicks, F. Hughes, H. J. Walker, J. Turner, L. J. Wicks, R. A. Cramond, M. J. Vickers, G. H. Schultz, G. T. Pitt, and Secretary. Also present: Mr. H. A. Stevenson, Chairman, Banana Growers' Federation N.S.W., and Mr. C. W. McRostie, Melbourne Market Representative of the Association.

Apologies received from Messrs. F. A. Wicks and H. H. Schultz.

Correspondence: Department of Commerce, re enquiry for Apples from a Switzerland firm. Resolved that same be handed to the Apple and Pear Section.

Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee re prescribed prices for canning during 1938-39 season. Resolved that same be handed on to Soft Fruit Section.

Metropolitan County Board re use of manure bags. Received.

W.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association seeking information. Resolved Secretary supply any possible information.

Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of S.A. soliciting special prizes for the 1939 Royal Show in September. Resolved that prizes be donated as in former years.

Messrs. A. G. Cameron, P. A. McBride, F. H. Stacey and K. C. Wilson, M.H.Rs., concerning National Insurance.

The Premier (Hon. T. Playford), apologising for absence at meeting.

The Marion Branch of the Association, conveying resolution passed at its meeting. Received.

Gardeners Employees' Union of S.A., requesting conference with members of the Executive.

Mr. G. Jennings moved: "That letter be acknowledged stating that the matter is outside the scope of the Association." Seconded M. H. Walker. Carried.

Water Committee: Mr. W. Ind, Chairman of Water Committee, reported on the Agreement between Engineering and Water Supply Dept., and the Committee, i.e., the Dept. to allow the natural flow down the Torrens each year from October 15 until March 15 of the next year. This agreement was subject to confirmation by the Executive. He moved "That these terms be accepted." Seconded by Mr. L. J. Wicks. Carried.

Potato Delegate to Melbourne Conference: Mr. C. J. Pitt, who attended the recent meeting of the Federal Potato Advisory Committee in Melbourne at the request of the Association, reported on the outcome of the meeting. A partial lifting of the embargo on N.Z. Potatoes had been affected to permit of 250 tons per week being allowed into Australia. Subsequently it was learned that N.Z. Potatoes for export would be available until May. He concluded by thanking the Executive for sending him to this meeting, and considered the information gained of great value to S.A. and also that this State should be represented at any future meetings of the Committee.

Mr. J. B. Randell moved, supported by Mr. G. Schultz, "That Mr. C. Pitt's report be received. Carried.

Sectional Reports.

Celery: Mr. M. Packer, Chairman, Celery Section, reported that small quantities are now going forward to the Eastern capitals. The annual general meeting of the Section was held on March 27, when the representatives from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane addressed the growers.

Tomatoes: The annual meeting of the Tomato Section was held March 30, when Mr. McRostie, Melbourne representative, gave a resume of the past season. Nominations are being called for vacancies on the Committee.

Cherry: Mr. W. J. Bishop reported that the Cherry Section had held its half-yearly meeting, and had decided to send a delegate to Melbourne prior to next season's factory arrangements being made, subject to consent of Executive.

Society: A report from the manager of Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Society Ltd. was read, and showed that remarkable progress was being made.

Organiser: A report from Mr. R. F. Warren, the Association Organiser, was received.

Mr. F. Hughes moved "That the Organiser be retained for a further month, and be asked to pursue his activities further afield." Seconded M. J. Turner. Carried.

Mr. C. W. McRostie: The Melbourne Representative (Mr. C. W. McRostie) briefly spoke on the marketing of S.A. produce in Melbourne.

Mr. H. A. Stevenson: The Chairman of the Banana Growers' Federation (Mr. H. A. Stevenson) addressed the meeting on the accomplishments and marketing problems of his organisation.

The Organiser, in dealing with the value of price tickets on the local markets, mentioned that leading Cauliflower growers would favor a price ticket for their line of produce.

Mr. N. T. Hobbs moved "That Mr. Warren be asked to get a representative number of Cauliflower growers to suggest a scheme and the Association meet them concerning the price ticket delivery." Seconded Mr. J. Turner.

Finance: The Secretary submitted the financial statement, which was adopted and A/cs. passed for payment.

APPLE JUICE.

Further reference has been made by the Agent-General for South Australia (Sir Charles McCann) to the production of Apple juice in other countries, as follows:—

Of interest to South Australian Apple growers must be the rapid development of the production of Apple juice. America, Germany, and Switzerland have been exploiting this industry for some years with great success. The drink has become increasingly popular from year to year, and it is estimated that in Germany this year the production will amount to several million gallons. Most countries that have successfully established this industry began in the early stages of production of Apple juice by using culled and reject type of fruit, but the demand for what is claimed to be an extremely healthful and non-alcoholic beverage has become so great that all types of Apples are now used. It is estimated that nearly 3,000 German State-inspected small factories are in existence to-day, and the demand for the drink has become so great that Apples are being imported mainly from the Balkan States to supply the demand.

I understand that prices paid last year for Apples by factories worked out at about £7 per ton. The Apples were shipped in bulk just as cider Apples are handled. I am assured that this year the price will be increased to approximately £10 per ton. Government assistance has largely assisted the development of the Apple juice industry in Germany, and rigid inspection and fixation of price have done much to standardise the quality.

During the last few years a considerable amount of attention has been given to the development of the industry in England, Bristol being the chief centre of production. Just recently a few English experts spent considerable time in Germany thoroughly investigating German methods. With a view of obtaining further information for South Australian fruitgrowers, I have made arrangements to inspect some of the factories now manufacturing near Bristol, and I hope at a later date to be able to report more fully upon this very interesting development, which would appear to have possibilities of solving the question of the more profitable utilisation of windfalls and other reject Apples.—"S.A. Journal of Agriculture."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

During the last week in March many Sectional meetings of the Association were held. The first meeting held was the annual general meeting of the Celery Section, on Monday, March 27, 1939, at 7.45 p.m.

This meeting was very well attended by Celery growers, and was unique insofar as it was the first occasion which an annual meeting has been addressed by the three Interstate Market Representatives.

In addition to the three representatives—Messrs. C. W. McRostie (Melbourne), L. G. Wills (Sydney), and W. Keehn, representing C.O.D. (Brisbane). Mr. H. A. Stevenson, Chairman of the Banana Growers' Federation, was also present at the meeting.

The Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Brisbane, have been newly appointed as the Brisbane Market Representative, and to Mr. W. Keehn, their Sales Manager, has been delegated the duties of Market Representative.

The President of the Association (Mr. W. J. Bishop) at the invitation of the Section, occupied the chair.

Mr. M. Packer, Chairman of the Celery Section, in his report, outlined the arrangements made by the delegates (Messrs. M. Packer and G. J. Strange) on their visit to Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Agents in each capital had been appointed, and the Committee had completed arrangements for what promises to be a successful season. A large amount of money was being expended again this year in advertising. Included in the advertising is a very attractive recipe leaflet which will be available from the various representatives.

The Secretary submitted the figures of 1938 season export, which was a record, and also presented a statement of receipts and expenditure showing a very creditable credit balance.

The representative addressed the meeting on the activities of last season, and the prospects for the present season. Mr. Stevenson also addressed the meeting.

The meeting closed after arrangements had been completed regarding transport.

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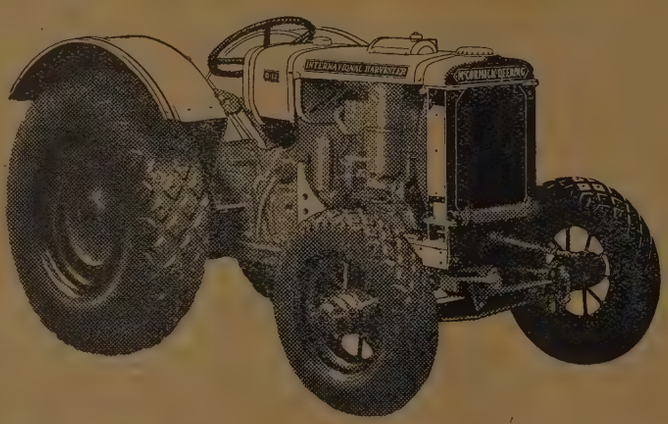

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The Cherry Growers also availed themselves of the opportunity of meeting the representatives, and a general meeting was held at Ashton on Wednesday, March 29.

Interesting addresses by the interstate visitors were given, and preliminary arrangements for the 1939 Cherry season were discussed.

APPLE AND PEAR EXPORT ORGANISATION ACT.

The S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association Incorp., in conjunction with the S.A. Fruit Marketing Association, were appointed as official growers' organisations in South Australia under the above Act.

It is necessary under the Act for each organisation to submit to the Federal Minister of Commerce (Dr. Earle Page) a panel of names of at least twice the number required on the Board.

As South Australia is entitled to one member, the Apple and Pear Section of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association met during the month and a panel consisting of Messrs. M. J. Vickers and A. E. Brearley was nominated, and submitted for the consideration of the Minister.

PERSONAL.

Messrs. L. G. Wills, of D. G. Wills (Sydney) Pty. Ltd., and Mr. W. Keehn, of Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Brisbane, Market Representatives of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association, arrived in Adelaide on Monday, April 27. The visit was to principally address the annual meeting of the Celery Section, but the opportunity was taken also to attend other sectional meetings.

Mr. Keehn left Adelaide for Tasmania by the Melbourne Express on Thursday evening, March 30, and Mr. Wills left for Sydney by air the next morning. Mr. H. A. Stevenson, Chairman of the Banana Growers' Federation, arrived in Adelaide on Thursday, March 23, and left for Sydney by the Melbourne Express on Saturday, April 1.

Mr. C. W. McRostie, the Association's Melbourne Representative, arrived in Adelaide on Thursday, March 23, and has had his usual busy time of addressing various sectional and branch meetings. Mr. McRostie intends leaving by car for Melbourne on April 6 or 7.

Growers in South Australia regretted to hear of the illness of Mr. R. G. Bartram, Adelaide manager of McRostie and Growers Pty. Ltd. Mr. Bartram, who is an inmate of the Wolverton Hospital, Largs Bay, is, we are pleased to report, making very satisfactory progress following an operation.

Growers generally and all connected with the fruit industry wish Mr. Bartram a speedy return to his former health and strength.

MARKET NOTES.

Prices generally during March were on an easing tendency owing to increasing supplies.

Beans, after various fluctuations during the month, ultimately settled on a low price level following increasing supplies. Peas also are showing a decline in price level. Green vegetables, principally Cabbages, remained in comparatively short supply at unchanged rates, but the arrival of Cauliflowers in increasing supplies had an easing tendency on the markets. Bunch lines were in greater supply and prices eased as a result. Increasing supplies of Celery are now in evidence, and export to the Eastern States is gradually increasing in quantity.

Fruit supplies were even during the month, and prices showed very little alteration.

The Peach season is nearing completion, and the Apple season is now commanding the attention of buyers.

The Tomato Section held its annual meeting on Thursday night, March 30, and was presided over by the Chairman, Mr. V. Stanford.

Mr. C. W. McRostie, Melbourne representative, reviewed last season's activities, and spoke on the prospects for the coming season. Mr. H. A. Stevenson, Chairman of the Banana Growers' Federation, also addressed the meeting.

Nominations for the vacancies on the Committee, which automatically become vacant each year, were called and will close with the Secretary on April 21 next.

The close date for voting was fixed at noon on May 6.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FRUIT EXPORTS.

South Australia has been granted all the space required to shift her surplus crop of 220,000 cases of Apples, and regular shipments will be made to the U.K. until the end of April.

The fruit already shipped appears to be of good quality, the Lenswood district reports that it has never packed such excellent quality Jonathans as those packed in February, despite the season.

A new feature

has been the entry of the South Australian Fruit Growers' Market Gardeners' Association into the export field. They will ship 4,000 cases this season on their own account, half on consignment and half on forward sale. A representative has been appointed in England, and it is hoped the quantity will be increased next year.

S. AUSTRALIAN APPLE CROP.

Rain Rectifies Much of the Drought Damage.

Mr. E. Leishman, Chief Inspector of Fruits for the S. Australian Department of Agriculture, recently stated that the S.A. Apple crop would be up to export standard. The recent heavy rains arrived just in time to save the situation caused by the extreme heat earlier in the year. Fruit ripened under drought conditions was bleached and colorless, but this had been rectified and the majority of the fruit would be quite normal. The late crops of Apples and Pear crops would also benefit as they would be larger and of export standard.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA *(Continued)*

Mid-Murray Notes

EFFECT OF HEAT WAVES AND RAIN ON FRUIT — RAIN BENEFITS CORDOS — FENUGREEK, A PROMISING NEW LEGUME IS IMPORTED BY RENMARK FRUIT GROWERS' CO-OPERATED FOR TRIALS — IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN PROGRESS — REPORT ON AUSTRALIAN WINES IN LONDON — DESTRUCTIVE PESTS CLASSIFIED AT THE GROWERS' MEETING. CONTROL METHODS DISCUSSED — BIRDS PROVED USEFUL — CORRECT TIMING OF SPRAYS ESSENTIAL IN CODLING MOTH CONTROL.

(By Our Correspondent.)

Renmark, 21/3/39.

THIS IS POSSIBLY one of the most difficult seasons we have ever experienced, having passed through two very severe heat waves, which left in its wake, a large quantity of sun-scorched Sultanas and to a small extent Gordos dried on the vines, where the bunch has been exposed to the relentless rays of the scorching sun, likewise Currant vines have to a small extent prematurely dried on the vines.

Fortunately the Currants were far enough advanced in maturity, so as not to materially affect the dried article. The sun scorch in this district was limited to places where the shallow soils were not able to hold the moisture, the deeper soils in no way suffered from this year's intense heat.

Then followed a deluge on February 24, brought about by one of those monsoonal depression, which descended upon us at a very inopportune time. From 3½ to 4ins. of rain fell in a few days, and as this comprises more than one-third of our usual average rainfall, the result might not have been harmful had it not come right in the midst of our drying season.

The greatest portion of the Currants were picked and were on the drying racks when the rain came, but where this fruit was still unripe, enough for picking, it had to be left to chance as to the ultimate fate of it. Some Currants were picked as soon as the weather cleared, but were so full of moisture that growers were compelled to allow them to dry out before proceeding with work in hand.

The Currants that were picked in this state, were a sticky mess, but where they were left to dry out it was found that the split fruit had dried on the bunch, although a little loss was occasioned by dropping, a really good sample was turned out.

Picking had to be accomplished by the placing of a strip of hessian (into which two bamboos had been inserted through a hemmed seam) under the vines to catch the dropping berries. In this way the loss was minimised to a considerable degree.

The rain rather benefited the Gordos which are a hardier variety than either Currants or Sultanas and can stand up to more heavenly moisture without loss from splitting or mould. On looking over the Sultanas after the weather had cleared, it appeared that very little loss had been sustained. The fruit had only been slightly cracked near the stem, but still hung firmly to the bunch. My best sample of Sultanas are those picked immediately after the rain. As the days wore on it was noticed that some of the bunches began to sag and the fruit took on a "wilty" appearance. When this fruit was dipped either with the cold potash solution or the hot potash, caustic soda combination, a large proportion of the split fruit began to break down rapidly and set up a ferment which rapidly became infested with mould spores.

Mould in Grapes.

When mould develops while the fruit is on the racks, it is usually associated with thick spreading or too closely encased with side hessians, but this was not the case in the present circumstances.

The fruit itself appeared to possess an inherent weakness due possibly to the ordeal through which the vines have passed in the past month or two, the rapid breakdown of the fruit was only the natural biological consequence of a weakened vine.

The amount of damage to **Sultanas** is considerably more than was at first supposed, and this will reflect itself in the small amount which will reach the four crown standard this year. This is much to be regretted in view of the fact that our last year's pack was of exceptionally good quality, but it is just one of those unforeseen circumstances with which the primary producer has to contend.

Promising New Legume.

For many years I have been in search of a legume to replace those now universally used viz., Peas, and Beans for the Purpose of planting cover crops. Both of these legumes have to be planted in March, while the soil is still warm to get a satisfactory stand in time to plough under by July, which is to my mind the correct time for a cover crop to be turned under, so as to make the nitrogen available for early spring growth of vines.

A legume which holds out great promise is one called Fenugreek, and is possibly one af the oldest cultivated legumes, having been used by the ancient Greeks for hay purposes, and soil improvement.

Fenugreek has the reputation of making growth at low temperatures, is drought resistant and contains a high nitrogen content. In view of its promising characteristics, the Renmark Fruit Growers' Co-operated, imported a quantity of seed for growers to try out this coming season. The seed is small, about the size of a shrivelled grain of wheat and requires about 10 lbs. per acre. As the seed only costs 6d. per lb. it is infinitely cheaper than Beans, which are quoted at 13/6 per bushel, or Peas at 11/6. At least fifty growers are trying a few acres of this new legume, which if it lives up to its reputation will supplant those now in general demand.

A special irrigation

is to commence on March 27, for citrus and cover crops. We do not yet know the best way to plant Fenugreek, whether before or after an irrigation, but on examining a stand on the property of Mr. B. Neihus (who has a private pumping plant) germination of the seed took place in 48 hours in the irrigation furrows, but lagged somewhat between the furrows. More will be heard of this legume as the season progresses.

Drainage Schemes.

The Renmark Irrigation Trust have commenced on the work of draining the Block E area and have purchased an excavator for the purpose of mechanically constructing the drainage channel. When seen at work recently this machine, which was operated by one man was moving a remarkable amount of earth and doing the work at one-fifth the cost of human labour. Although the cost was well over £2,000 it has been estimated that this unit has already paid for itself for the work already done.

The drain is an open cut eight feet deep and commences at the bottom of Mr. Vic. Anderson's unirrigated land and proceeds through unirrigated land at the back of the High School, until it reaches Goolwa Street. Following Goolwa Street, it will run up to Ral Ral Avenue as far as Mr. Jack Guscott's property, and then top the accumulated soil water at Showell's and Mr. Len Pitts.

Looking over the surveyed map of test holes put down prior to the commencement of the drainage work, the salt content of the water in the test holes varied from 9 grains per gallon to 3,700 grains per gallon. As the fall in the open cut is not sufficient to allow the drainage water to gravitate to a natural basin, an automatic pump has been installed at the bottom of Mr. Vic. Anderson's property, from which it is led into, what is known as salt creek.

Australian Wines.

Mr. Allan Kelly, Chairman of the Berri Co-operated Winery, who recently went to England on behalf of his company, had some interesting remarks to make upon the disorganised state of the market for Australian Wines in England. **"Prices"** he said **"for Australian wines have been dropping slowly, but surely for some years, in spite of all efforts by the Australian authorities to prevent it."** The main cause for this is the accumulation of wine stocks and the pressure to sell.

Mr. Kelly believes that certain restrictions should be placed on shipments to more equalise that of supply and demand, and is a strong advocate of a vigorous policy of advertising Australian wines, so that they will be purchased on their merits and not allowing them to lose their identity through being blended with other wines.

Pest Control.

On March 13, at the monthly meeting of the Berri branch of the Agricultural Bureau, a joint address was given by Dr. W. E. Meier, and Mr. O. Weste. Dr. Meier dealt with the life cycle of most of our destructive scales, fungoid diseases an insect pests and their treatment while Mr. Weste confined his remarks to the treatment of Codling Moth.

In the course of his remarks, Dr. Meier said that perhaps most of the growers present at the meeting had had more experience in the practical application of sprays for remedial measures of insect and fungus diseases than he had, but that there are certain facts which should be known to all fruitgrowers with a view to a better understanding of the diseases they wish to control.

Destructive pests were all living organisms and could be classified under three headings: 1. Chewing Insects; 2. Sucking; 3. Fungus. When a plant is attacked by any of the above pests, it is often the case of the vine or tree having previously been weakened through perhaps a lack of suitable plant foods or affected by salt or seepage in which case it falls an easy prey to any prevailing disease. This is known as a physiological cause. A contributing factor may be that of a soil being too alkaline or too acid to suit the particular plants grown, and this is determined by the pH of a soil. For instance, Citrus trees will do best on soils never acid than alkaline, but vines require a high pH to get the best results. Dr. Meier then dealt with many diseases which were induced by or became a contributing factor through physiological causes.

Chewing insects undergo a complete metamorphosis a typical example of which is the Codling Moth.

Here we have a moth which lives a fortnight or so, lays about 40 eggs, the eggs hatch out into grubs, the grub lives its life, spins a cocoon and hatches out into a moth again, thus completing a cycle, through which chewing insects go.

The standard treatment for all chewing insects is the application of Arsenical sprays.

The scales and aphides are a little more difficult to deal with, said Dr. Meier, and then gave a description of our worst aphides and scales.

With regard to Fungi moulds, etc., fungus growths are mostly met with in the wetter regions, but often cause trouble in these parts, with the incidence of inopportune rains. Some fungus diseases appear on the surface while others penetrate the bark of a leaf and are hard to get at.

Black spot, curl leaf and Downy Mildew belongs to this latter variety. In dealing with moulds, Dr. Meier said "Some of the mould spores are capable of withstanding intense heat, even up to boiling point without being destroyed, so that it could be seen how difficult it was to eradicate.

In the control of Fungus diseases, we are almost entirely confined to Bordeaux or Burgundy mixtures as a recognised standard. Lime Sulphur has its uses in this respect, but the copper sulphate element in Bordeaux and Burgundy is most effective.

Science has up to the present time not been very successful in controlling our scales by means of parasites, this is a field of activity which lends itself to the further research.

In concluding his address, Dr. Meier quoted some of our useful birds as devourers of hosts of harmful in-

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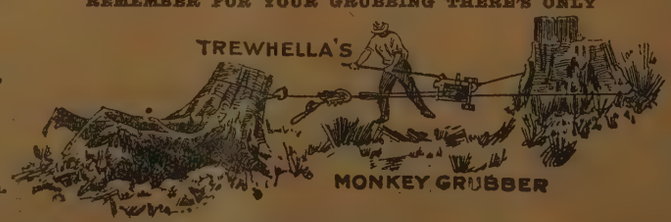

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APPLE AND PEAR BOARD.

Western Australian Nominations.

The Western Australian Fruit Growers' Association has submitted the following as their growers' panel from which two will be selected for the Apple and Pear Board:—Messrs. Martin, Parke, Scott and Soothill.

The Shippers' nominee is Mr. R. Carter.

sects among which were the Silvereye, which was a keen lover of aphides. Hopping Jinny, which ate many varieties of grubs, the Blue Wren which was also a very useful little bird, even the despised sparrow devoured many harmful grubs and insects. **If the truth were known, all birds whether native or imported would be found to do more good than harm.**

As the hour was getting late, Mr. Weste curtailed his remarks to a description of the latest development in the control of Codling Moth and said that it was quite possible to apply arsenical sprays frequently and still miss the vital period. The greatest success achieved so far in the control of this pest lies in the timing of the sprays and this should be done by ascertaining the period of egg-laying by the moth.

The first sprays are definitely defined by the flower petal fall, or what is known as the calyx spray. This spray invariably coincides with the first flight of moths from the overwintering brood of grubs. A second calyx spray is given about ten days after the first and subsequent sprays should be applied according to moth flights. A 10 per cent. molasses solution has been found effective in determining the movement of moths.

If cool weather intervenes during the first brood emergence, there will often be a delayed flight of moths, when the next warm spell occurs.

Apart from the flight of moths, which occurs in early Spring or about October 10, our worst brood is the January brood, and unless each grower carefully watches his lure pots during that month, he cannot possibly spray at the time when it will be most effective. In the past three years only two definite broods have been identified in this district, but a certain number of "stragglers" are hatching at odd times, this makes it necessary to give an intervening spray or two.

With regard to the strength of arsenate, the speaker said that from his observations in the district, the best results seemed to come from the use of a stronger arsenical formulae than that advocated by the makers, but he did not know whether the better control was the effect of these particular growers doing the work more efficiently or whether it was due to a more concentrated solution of arsenate.

Mr. Weste was strongly in favour of the use of white oil, with arsenate of lead, and the use of chemicalised bands on the trees. White oil had proved itself an effective ovicide in this respect, was of great value in controlling this pest.

At the conclusion of the address, many questions were asked, after which the President, Mr. Chiltern, called on Mr. Ray Moss, and Mr. P. Ingerson to move and second a vote of thanks, to which Dr. Meier suitably responded.

The South Australian Fruit Marketing Association Inc.

Executive Committee.

Minutes of monthly meeting, held at Adelaide on March 31, 1939.

Present: Messrs. M. G. Basey, R. G. Hannaford, A. R. Willsmore, E. Leishman, P. R. B. Searcy, H. M. Charlick, J. B. Randell, S. M. James, F. F. Redden, C. A. Stewien, H. N. Wicks, and the Secretary.

Apologies: Hon. T. Playford, M.P., Messrs. A. O. Petersen, F. B. James, J. H. Dunning, W. F. E. Smith.

Chairman: The President, Mr. J. B. Randell, occupied the chair.

Unemployed Relief Council: On the motion of Mr. F. F. Redden, seconded by Mr. H. M. Charlick, it was resolved:—"That the Secretary should write the Unemployed Relief Council asking if they intended purchasing Apples again this season, and if so suggesting that the price should be increased from 1/9 to 2/3 per case."

Correspondence: Letter dated March 14, from Department of Commerce, Canberra, asking if the Association issued any periodical market report or circular giving information regarding prices and market conditions of the wholesale fresh fruit market in Adelaide.

Letter dated March 10, from the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society asking if the Association would again donate a special prize for fruit packing competition. (It was unanimously agreed that £2/2/- should again be donated for this purpose.)

Letter dated March 14, from S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association, expressing approval of their Executive Committee of the appointment of Mr. J. H. Dunning as the representative on the State Advisory Board on Eastern trade.

February 28, from the Secretary of the Premier, acknowledging receipt of nomination of Mr. J. H. Dunning as successor to the late Mr. H. J. Bishop on the State Advisory Committee on Eastern trade, and notifying that the Commonwealth Government had been informed of the appointment.

Letters from the Australian Apple and Pear Council dated:—

February 21, asking if we had any pictures of the Adelaide Market suitable for use in connection with the system of visual education in schools. (Mr. H. N. Wicks kindly undertook to make enquiries into the question of obtaining a series of suitable pictures.)

March 3, enclosing copy of letter from the Marine Underwriter's Association, with enclosures re new clauses in insurance policies to give adequate cover for conditions that were deemed to have been not fully provided for under previous policies. (Mr. P. R. B. Searcy reported on the suggested new clauses and stated that in his opinion the new clauses would not give the protection desired, and he submitted a draft of a letter for submission to the Apple and Pear Council setting out his reasons. The letter was read by the secretary, and approved, and it was agreed that it be forwarded to the Apple and Pear Council.)

March 15, enclosing copy of letter from the Department of Commerce, notifying that the ⅛ of a penny levy on Apples and Pears will continue to operate until the Apple and Pear Export Charges Act 1938 is proclaimed.

March 17, enclosing copy of letter from the W.A. Fruit Shippers' Committee re continuance of Apple and Pear Council, after the Apple and Pear Organisation Board is formed. (It was agreed to place this matter on the agenda for further consideration at the next meeting.)

March 21, re Apple and Pear publicity, advising that the question of obtaining an advance was delayed until the new Board had been constituted.

March 3 and 21, re Empire Fruits Council, and advising that the various points raised would be referred to the new Board for urgent consideration as soon as it was constituted.

Membership: Application for membership from Mr. A. F. Fullston, of Kersbrook was approved.

Royal Agricultural Society — S.A.F.M.A. Cup: It was unanimously agreed that the Association should donate an annual sum of £6/6/- in the case of Apples, and £4/4/- for Pears, to provide annual trophies in connection with export fruit to take the place of the Orient Cup, which had now been discontinued.

Freight Space: At the request of shippers it was agreed to write the Oversea Shipping Representatives' Association pointing out that the space provided between April 6 and 28 was inadequate, and shippers required an additional 5,000 cases for U.K. between April 13 and 27, and also pointing out that the "Sydney Star" was too late for continuous loading and despatch.

NEWS FROM TASMANIA

GREEN MANURE CROPS — ABNORMAL WEATHER CONDITIONS AFFECT FRUIT — INSPECTION IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED TO RELIEVE CONGESTION ON WHARVES — DIFFICULTY WITH REGULATIONS RE CASES — PRE-COOLING PEARS.

(By Our Correspondent.)

PICKING AND PACKING for both oversea and the mainland are now in full swing in the orchards.

Those who practice **green manuring** regularly, sowed the cover crop with the last summer cultivation.

Climatic conditions have continued abnormal. In the north of the state, after three months with practically no rain there have been two or three heavy falls, which came a little too late to benefit the early varieties. These beneficial rains were followed in the Tamar Valley by a very severe gale on February 27, which took a heavy toll of the varieties that were fit to pick and so caused slow delivery for the oversea ships.

In the Southern districts, the continued heat and dry weather had checked the growth of the fruit considerably and the subsequent rains do not appear to have been quite heavy enough to have reached the subsoil and maintain normal growth, consequently there is an undue proportion of small Apples and Pears, which makes the picking and packing slow. The Cleos seem to have stood up to it best, while Jons, French Crabs and Sturmers have suffered most.

Pears have also felt the pinch, especially Winter Coles. These are very susceptible to injury from dry conditions, many of them won't attain 2in. diameter. The crop as a whole will be disappointing.

The prolonged dry weather favoured the **Red Spider**, which came rather troublesome on Sturmers and French Crabs.

Canary Fly did not show up till fairly late, March in most places, so probably won't do very much damage.

Codling Moth also has been troublesome in many orchards.

Inspection on Wharves.

The congestion of traffic on the Hobart wharves has at times been very severe and the lorrymen have been considerably delayed. They also complain that the inspection of fruit is stopped for the dinner and tea hour, which they claim is a serious inconvenience to them and they threaten to raise their charges.

A deputation waited on the Collector of Customs and asked that the inspection be carried on continuously, but so far nothing has been done to relieve the position.

Case Regulations.

The quality of the fruit presented for export seems to be very good, but detentions appear to be frequent on account of case material being thicker than allowed by regulations and alleged slack pack. From all accounts this latter is a little overdone.

Many growers say that the cases containing 44lbs. to 46lbs. net weight of fruit are detained for slack pack although 40lbs. is asked for by the trade and 42lbs. net by the regulations.

Growers are seriously annoyed at what they consider an over interpretation of the regulations and rather than have the fruit injured by repacking (which costs 9d. per case) they send it on the interstate markets. This, of course, is disorganising the shipping programme and annoying the buyers when it is F.O.B. fruit as they will, or may be faced with claims for short delivery. However, judging by market reports the Sydney market can absorb all it is likely to get and want more, both of Apples and Pears.

I think a slight modification in the interpretation of the "Slack Pack" regulation would be to the advantage of the industry as a whole, as both buyer and seller are put to expense by too rigid an interpretation, with the consequent, frequent detentions.

Loading at Port Huon.

The Huon growers are annoyed this season, because so few oversea boats are listed to call at the Port Huon deep water wharf. The wharf has plenty accommodation, sufficient depth of water, and two cool stores adjacent to it, yet fruit has to be carted to Hobart, where the wharves are often congested. The trouble seems to be that those ships that are bound to time can only load at one port.

Pre-Cooling of Pears.

The compulsory pre-cooling of Pears was introduced in Tasmania this year. Previously it was optional.

I understand that the first Pear boat did not ship any Pears, as pre-cooling would have necessitated picking the fruit before it was ripe enough.

Later in the season, when the fruit was fit, it was found that the Cool Store accommodation was totally inadequate to meet requirements, so Pear growers are in an unenviable position. I understand additional cool storage will be available possibly in time for next season.

Canning Factory at Port Cygnet.

The canning factory at Port Cygnet is well on the way to completion, the difficulty will probably be to get the required quantity to process, as apparently there will be an acute shortage of late fruit.

Judge: Have you ever been sentenced before?

Woman (ashamed): Yes, once I was fined.

Judge How much?

Woman (sobbing): Penny excess postage.

Pest and Disease Control—Packing — Marketing Improvements — Treatment for "Die-back"

THE FOLLOWING REPORT re the condition of orchards throughout Tasmania, is to hand from the Chief Horticulturist.

Weather and Crops.

After the prolonged period of dry weather, rains were very welcome, and in most cases the outlook for the later varieties has considerably improved. The lack of rain this season has resulted in many of the coloured varieties failing to develop their natural characteristics and skin texture is also dull and poor in a number of districts. In Northern districts particularly even the later varieties are already well forward, and it is anticipated that harvesting will conclude earlier than usual. Loss was caused by high winds in the Tamar districts towards the end of February. The rains came rather late to influence size in French Crab and Scarlet in Southern districts.

Pests and Diseases.

Until quite recently pests were conspicuous by their absence, but infestation by Codling Moth and Canary Fly has now increased. Apparently the dry warm weather has resulted in a particularly good batch of the later brood of canary fly and a partial second brood of Codling Moth. Although red spider was also expected to increase the nicotine sprays have kept it under control. Fortunately the main trouble "black spot," is still well below normal and "late spot" following on the rains has again been checked by a return to dry conditions.

Packing and Marketing.

The change over from the Australian dump case to the Standard case is a noticeable feature of this export season. The presence of dump cases on overseas export wharves is almost rare, and it is probable that even fewer of these would have been used had not certain misunderstandings in regard to the top and bottom thickness of standard cases caused substitution.

Growers are advised to be particularly careful to ensure that case measurements are in accordance with the regulations. District Instructors report that many packing contraventions are directly traceable to the variations in the internal measurements of the cases used; ⅜-½ of an inch difference in length may quite easily result in slackness or necessitate an alteration in pack. Another productive source of trouble lies in single piece lids and the use of these is discouraged. Such lids are less pliable and do not lend themselves to the "crown" pack. Greater care should be taken in nailing down, and the pressure applied in the lidding process should not be sudden but gradual and in stages.

In view of the light crops borne on some varieties this season, selection of the fruit for overseas purposes should be done with care and discretion.

Apples for Crushing

Wanted: Regular Weekly Deliveries during May, June and July.

Undersized or blemished fruit accepted if quite sound.

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"TURNED THE CORNER."

Mr. D. E. Ryan Says Tasmanian Fruit Industry is on the Up-Grade.

When welcoming representatives of interstate shipping interests at Huonville recently, Mr. D. E. Ryan, Chairman of the State Fruit Board, stated that he considered the fruit industry had turned the corner. For four or five seasons the industry had experienced a period of stress, but information from all quarters this season seemed to indicate a most gratifying upward trend and a year of prosperity for growers.

The demands on the time of the District Instructors this year has been heavy, but growers are advised to immediately get in touch with them should any packing problem arise or information be required. A ring on the telephone may frequently be the means of saving repacking and additional carriage expenses.

Stone and Berry Fruits.

Rains came in time to benefit size in the later crops of canning Peaches and Plums, but earlier varieties were generally small.

During this month all **Apricot** trees showing "dieback" should have the dead portions removed and burnt. At this period, whilst foliage is still on the tree, affected limbs are more easily detected and there are indications that early removal enables the healthy portions of the tree below the infected area to heal more rapidly. If possible, cut back well below the dead areas or until a healthy white wood cross section is obtained.

Treatment of the cut surface with the glycerine-mercuric mixture recommended, should be carried out soon after cutting.

The later formed **strawberry runners** soon rooted after the second rains, but all those formed earlier are still loose and it is doubtful whether they will ever make satisfactory plants. With a return to dry conditions it seemes likely that the little Autumn planting will be possible.

Raspberry and Loganberry growers if they have not already done so, are advised to remove and burn all old canes in their plantations. By carrying out this operation early, much less anthracnose and other diseases will be present to reinfect young canes which are making late growth.

TASMANIAN BERRY FRUITS.

Successful Season.

Growers in the Derwent Valley were this year in the unusually happy position of being able to sell all the small fruits they produced. This year proved to be one of the most successful seasons experienced, concluding at the beginning of March with the last of the **Black Currant** crop.

Throughout the season there was a keen demand, and although there was a shortage of pickers at the beginning of the season, due to the rapid ripening during January, the position was overcome to a large extent, and little fruit on the later fields was lost. Crops generally were not so heavy as last year, although there were isolated cases of exceptional yields, particularly Black Currants.

TASMANIAN CROP ESTIMATES

THE DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN (Mr. H. J. Exley) stated recently that from estimates made, it seemed likely that the Tasmanian production of Apples for the 1938-39 season will be about 4,400,000 bushels (a decline of 392,000 bushels on last season), and 260,000 bushels of Pears (an increase of 69,000 bushels). This estimate is made up of 61,100 bushels of canning varieties and 198,900 bushels of other sorts.

The production of Apples in Tasmania for each of the last five years was as follows:—

Year.	Bushels.
1933-4	4,953,000
1934-5	3,934,000
1935-6	3,950,000
1936-7	4,611,000
1937-8	4,792,000
Average for five years	4,448,000
Estimate for 1938-9	4,400,000

On the experience of growers who have furnished reports, the different varieties should contribute to the crop in the following order:—

Varieties.	Season 1937-8. Bushels.	Season 1938-9. Bushels.
Sturmers	1,198,000	1,139,000
Jonathan	800,000	691,000
Cleopatra	551,000	524,000
Democrat	369,000	449,000
French Crab	345,000	273,000
Scarlet	297,000	312,000
Cox's Orange	221,000	141,000
Granny Smith	168,000	185,000
Crofton	129,000	105,000
Geeveston Fanny	77,000	75,000
Other varieties	637,000	506,000
Totals	4,792,000	4,400,000

Compared with last season, the largest decline is expected in Jonathans, with a decrease of 109,000 bushels, or 13.6 per cent., followed by Cox's Orange Pippins, with a drop of 80,000 bushels, or 36.2 per cent., and Sturmers, 59,000 bushels or 4.9 per cent. Higher yields are shown for Democrats and Granny Smiths, which should account for increases of 80,000 (21.7 per cent.), and 17,000 (10.12 per cent.) bushels respectively.

APPLES FOR SOLDIERS.

Generous Gifts from Tasmania.

On March 18, 25 cases of Apples were shipped on the Taroona for distribution among returned soldier patients in Melbourne and Sydney Hospitals. This is the first shipment of the 100 cases, which it is hoped to send from Launceston. From all Tasmania it is anticipated that 800 cases of Apples will be sent to the mainland, for distribution in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide repatriation hospitals.

The growers are donating the fruit, and the Shipping Companies are carrying it free to its destination, while members of the Waterside Workers' Federation are loading it without charge.

The Australian Apple and Pear Council provided a considerable amount of publicity material.

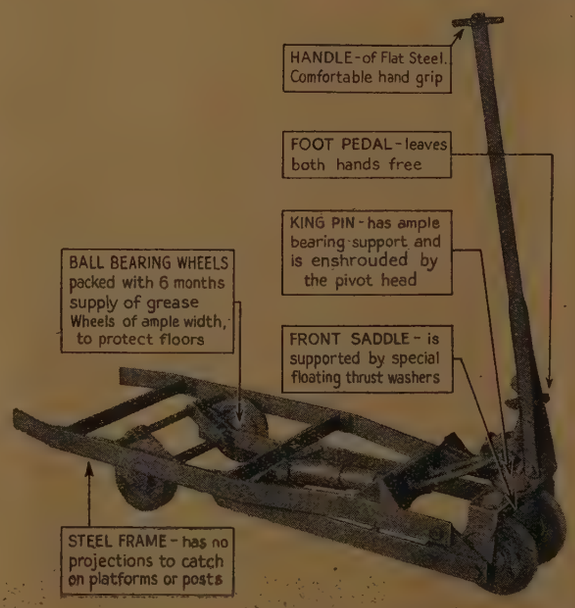
Spreyton.

The Apple packing season is now in full swing at Spreyton. It is estimated that close on 100,000 cases will be packed, though the recent windstorms will adversely affect the crop and cause losses.

REDUCE HANDLING COSTS

ELEVATING-GW-TRUCKS

BALL OR ROLLER BEARING


HANDLE-of Flat Steel. Comfortable hand grip
FOOT PEDAL-leaves both hands free
KING PIN-has ample bearing support and is enshrouded by the pivot head
BALL BEARING WHEELS packed with 6 months supply of grease Wheels of ample width, to protect floors
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STEEL FRAME-has no projections to catch on platforms or posts

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Dried Fruits News

S.A. DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

The business of the S.Aust. Dried Fruits Board during the past twelve months has appreciably increased in volume necessitating heavy agendas as all Board meetings. On March 6, 1939, the business occupied the whole of the day, and it became necessary to defer consideration of several items.

A number of recommendations of the Consultative Committee relating particularly to dried tree fruit problems were dealt with, the main ones being uniform methods of regulation and allowance for export credit.

A decision concerning the Coonawarra position was deferred pending the incorpartion as an Association of Coonawarra growers, application for which was being lodged with the Registrar of Companies.

A request of the S.A. Packers' Association for the Board's co-operation in the staging of a competitive trade exhibit at the Adelaide Royal Agricultural Show, was agreed to, and a sub-committee was appointed to supervise the arrangements.

In regard to door classification, the issue of licences to fifteen (15) classers in the Renmark area was confirmed.

Further reports of Inspectors on Dried Fruit Stores were considered and a number were approved.

In the matter of the marketing and control of low grade dried tree fruit, the Secretary was directed to prepare a further memorandum for the consideration of the Board.

Reports on Coonawarra grading, position of legislation in N.S.W. and Investigation Service were received, and a Dealer's Registration for the year ending December 31, 1939 was approved.

RAIN DAMAGES SULTANA CROP.

Owing to the unusual weather conditions, the Victorian Sultana crop is estimated to be down one-third, comparing this year with the 1938 record crop of 41,370 tons. The crop is estimated to be 27,580 tons, a drop of 13,790 tons.

After accounting for all the factors involved, the estimate is that the loss will be about £300,000.

Mr. P. Malloch, Managing Director of the Irymple Packing Co., and a member of the export Control Board, suggests that a pessimistic view should not be taken in that the coming crop will be only slightly below average.

TOO MANY SMALL PRUNES.

Size as a Selling Factor.

THE HIGH PERCENTAGE of small Prunes is still causing concern, more especially in districts where water for irrigation is not available, writes the Chief Instructor of Fruit Culture of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture in current notes.

It is recognised that pruning alone is not necessarily to blame. **Soil moisture is the chief factor controlling the size of fruit,** but if the soil moisture and other conditions are equal, then the trees carrying the lighter crop will yield the larger fruit.

It is well known that there is a difficulty in maintaining the size of Prunes as the trees age and it is probable that some growers are trying to obtain too heavy a crop from their trees. They are quite likely to defeat their aim, however, as a somewhat lower yield of larger and higher priced fruit might easily nett them a better return.

Producers of canning and drying fruit must remember that fruit canned or dried has still to be sold, and competition is so very keen that unless our products are maintained at a high standard we cannot hope to retain our present market.

DRIED FRUITS BILL IN N.S.W.

Uniform Lesislation Throughout Australia Desired.

Notice of a new Dried Fruits Bill to replace the present Act was given recently in the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly by the Minister for Agriculture (Major Reid.)

It is intended to bring about uniformity with other states producing dried fruits. This is a result of a recommendation made by the Australian Agricultural Council last year.

As a result of the recommendation, Victoria adopted a Dried Fruits Consolidating Act and South Australia adopted an amending Act. The new Bill to be brought into N.S.W. will be uniform with the Victorian Act in principle and in verbiage. The South Australian Act is uniform with the Victorian Act in principle only.

Western Australia, whose output is very small, is also considering uniform legislation, but its importance in having same is not so great.

AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS.

MR. W. C. F. THOMAS, the Chairman of the Commonwealth Dried Fruit Export Control Board advises, under date April 1, that shipments to date of the new season's Australian fruit cover 7,378 tons. Of this quantity 5,865 tons have been consigned to London and other British markets. Business in Canada reported to date covers 4,135 tons and in New Zealand 1,737 tons. Of the sales reported to Canada, 1,055 tons have actually been shipped, but within the next two or three weeks very substantial shipments will be made to both Dominions. Reports as to the crop are to the effect that the quality of Currants shipped from Australia this year will be particularly high grade, the whole of the Currants having been harvested prior to the break in the weather. Lexias, which are a late crop, are showing good quality to date. The outturn of Sultanas has been substantially affected both as regards quantity and quality by the rains at the end of February and early in March, which have generally lowered the quality from one to two grades.

During the week ended March 30, 1939, sales in Great Britain amounted to 255 tons. The average price realised for 238 tons of Sultanas was £40/18/1, and for 17 tons of Currants £26/9/- per ton. The quantity unsold in London and other British centres amounts to 6,026 tons. The first shipments of Australian Currants are due in Great Britain before Easter, and the earlier shipments of Sultanas may reach Great Britain about the beginning of May.

VITICULTURE IN VICTORIA.

INTERESTING DETAILS regarding Viticulture in Victoria are to hand from the Government Statist. There are 41,883 acres at present under vines, 38,645 acres being in bearing. For the year 1937-38, this area yielded a harvest of 4,897,257 cwt. as compared with 3,903,430 cwt. during 1936-37. Of this total the estimated quantity used for making wine, etc., was 198,814 cwt., for making Raisins, Sultanas and Currants 4,610,994 cwt., and for table consumption 87,559 cwt.

Dried fruit production (in cwts.) for the last two seasons was as follows (1936-37 season in brackets)—Lexias, 106,501 (90,243); Sultanas, 863,579 (655,090); Currants, 178,960 (152,202).

Wine production in 1937-8 totalled 1,433,637 gallons, 1,818,917 (1936-7). The total of 1,433,637 gallons includes 471,424 gallons, stated by growers to be for distillation purposes.

GOVERNOR AS AMBASSADOR.

Praises Sunraysia Fruits.

"I am delighted to be in Mildura, and having seen your dried fruits industry from the vine to the sultanas in the cases. I will go back to England and be an ambassador for Victoria and for the Sunraysia fruits," stated His Excellency the Governor (Lord Huntingfield) after completing his recent tour of the Mildura district.

AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUIT SALES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The Commonwealth Dried Fruits Export Control Board advise that during the fortnight ended March 23, 674 tons of Australian dried fruit were sold in Great Britain. The average price of 444 tons of Sultanas was £41/6/6, and of 224 tons of Currants £25/13/3 per ton. Unsold stocks from 57,221 tons shipped to Great Britain are 6,461 tons. From the 1939 harvest 3,383 tons have been shipped to date.

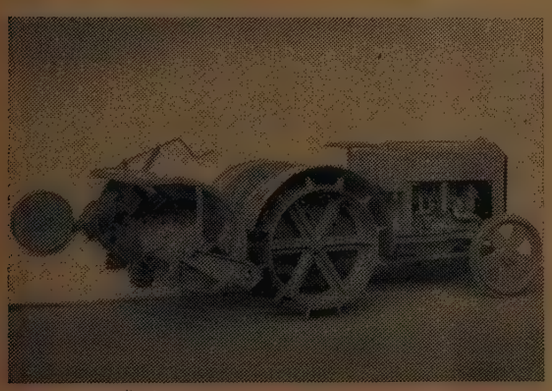
We acknowledge receipt of an excellent publication issued by the Scottish Chambers of Commerce entitled "Trade and Commerce Between Scotland and the Empire." This contains a complete review of the business and market centres of Glasgow. An interesting article is also published regarding the export trade from Australia. It is interesting to note that the Glasgow fruit market occupies a site extending to 12,000 square yards. It is the third largest market in Great Britain for Canadian and North American Apples, and in a decade has grown to be the third largest for Jaffa Oranges. An excellent opportunity is presented to British Empire fruitgrowers to develop a much larger trade with this market by direct shipments and through the medium of established traders in the market.

SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATION.

Mr. D. T. Du Rieu, Chairman of the Renmark Co-op. Distillery, in a speech at Renmark recently, stated he looked upon the Articles of the Australian Dried Fruits Association as the best basis of full co-operation in any primary industry.

The Congressman's wife sat up in bed, a startled look on her face. "Jim," she whispered, "there's a robber in the house."

"Impossible," was her husband's sleepy reply. "In the Senate, yes, but in the House, never."



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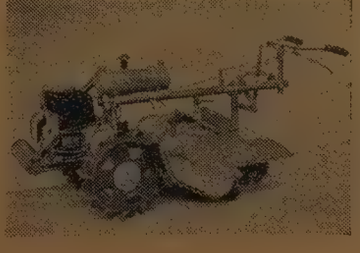
I am quite convinced that the Hoe is the ideal all-round implement.
I have done 550 hours' work, including a considerable amount of heavy breaking up, and have not had minor adjustments.
Yours faithfully,
N. A. BUTLER.
Cleveland, May 14th, 1934.



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Motor Cars, Trucks, Tractors

Power on the Farm

By E. G. Dean, Keyneton, South Australia.

(Continued from March issue.)

The Cooling System.

Drain and flush out the radiator at least once in six months. This is best done after a good run, when the water will be hot and if a circulating pump is fitted will be well stirred up. It is possible to crack the cylinder block by adding cold water to a very hot engine: so either wait for things to cool off or refill with warm water. An excellent preventive for brine scale and other radiator ills is made by boiling a few handfuls of good Australian gum leaves in a bucket of water. Strain this liquid and add two good pints to the radiator. Rubber hose connections may appear quite good outside but be badly corruded on the inside, and thereby prevent easy circulation of the water. Keep the fan belt tight, but not overtight, sufficient to prevent the fan from slipping. A very tight belt puts a big strain on the bearings.

Tyres.

The most common enemy of the tyre is under-inflation. This practice causes terrific flexing of the walls, which in turn generates heat and eventually leads to blowouts. Therefore, check tyre pressure regularly, and here again a gauge is essential. Over-inflation should also be avoided; it naturally gives a rougher ride and subjects the vehicle to excessive vibration. Periodically jack each wheel in turn and while turning slowly by hand remove any stones which have become wedged in the tread; often a tack is located at the same time and a possible puncture avoided. Always fit a new tube with a new tyre. Old tubes are stretched and partly perished and will not always keep a new tyre properly inflated.

It is a good plan after mounting a tyre on the rim to add just sufficient air to make the tyre firm, then slowly revolve it and bump it on the floor while doing so. This allows any kinds in the tube or gaiter to flatten out before the full pressure is put in. It will be found that tyres bought and broken-in in the Winter will last better than those fitted in the Summer. When fitting a wheel or rim to the truck tighten each nut only a little at a time, working round and round until all are quite tight. An occasional inspection of body bolts and replacement or tightening as necessary will prevent many rattles and squeaks.

Should you ever experience that most exasperating trouble, a jammed self-starter, rock the car backwards and forwards in gear. On no account continue this if the starter does not come free at once, as there is a danger of bending the starter spindle and thus producing a "chronic sticker." The best method to free a bad jam is to loosen the bolts which hold the starter motor in position. This allows the pinion to come out of line; it can then be easily turned back. Dirt and tacky oil on the starter shaft should be removed with petrol; then lubricate with powdered graphite. A little suspected cause of power loss, especially in a vehicle which has done considerable work, is a choked exhaust silencer. The remedy naturally is a thorough clear out.

A Few Don'ts for the Truck Driver.

Don't take a naked light near an engine.

Don't continue to use the starter if the engine refuses to start readily. Look for the cause of the trouble.

Don't press the starter rapidly in quick succession. Pause between each application to let the moving parts come to rest.

Don't turn the steering wheel when the truck is stationary.

Don't push down on the starting handle, always pull up, and never put the thumb over the handle; lay it along the first finger.

Don't load an engine or "revv." it unduly until it has warmed up.

Don't allow rattles and squeaks to develop without tracing and curing them.

Don't hold on in top gear when the engine is laboring.

Don't slip the clutch; the gear box was put there to use, so use it.

Don't drive with foot on clutch, and never accelerate unduly until clutch is fully engaged.

Don't climb hills on full throttle when lower gears are being used.

Don't suddenly apply brakes if you have a blowout.

Don't delay a brake overhaul if you know they are faulty. Your life may depend on good brakes.

Stationary Engines.

Some of the foregoing remarks also apply to the stationary farm engine, but there are a few points besides which are worthy of consideration. A stationary engine should have a solid base to stand on, and it should be securely bolted to that base to eliminate all vibration. It should be protected from the weather and not used as so many are as a power plant and a fowl-roost. They require more frequent decarbonizing and valve grinding than a motor engine, especially if kerosene is the fuel. If the engine is of the hot-box ignition type lighting kerosene will give much better results than power kerosene.

Keep valve tappers adjusted so that they will open the valve fully, but be careful that they are not so tight as to prevent the valve closing properly. After considerable use valve springs sometimes become weak and do not close the valve quickly enough; this is especially so on high-speed engines.

An excellent lubricant for the cylinders of horizontal open sump engines is ordinary castor oil. This will always work free and will not gum up the piston rings. When you finish work with a single-cylinder engine always see that both valves are closed, and if it is of the open type see that the piston is back in the cylinder. The former prevents moisture from entering the combustion chamber and makes for easier starting; the latter naturally keeps the piston free from dust which would otherwise settle on it.

SAFE DRIVING HINTS.

Double de-clutch on all gear changes, hold the driving wheel on the upper half; let it slide through the fingers for a turn; give a slight warning hoot for cyclists and walkers; a heavy hoot for lorrymen, whose driving cabs are usually noisy.

Over thirty-five miles an hour never take your hands off the wheel. Slide your fingers down to the hooter.

When cyclists fall off, they sprawl. Always see that at least his overall height separates you from a cyclist when passing him on the road.

From a traffic police instructor's hints, published in London "Daily Express."

GOOD TYRES ESSENTIAL.

Worn-Out Tyres and Smooth Covers Court Trouble.

SOME DRIVERS do not appear to realise the danger of driving with tyres that are not in the best condition. They fail to realise that while the brakes stop the wheels, it is the tread of the tyres that have to bite the surface of the road to make braking effective when an emergency arises.

Motor tyres are made with patterned treads designed to provide traction that ensures controllability of the vehicle, but when the treads have worn to a polished smoothness, such tyres no longer ensure freedom from skidding and the danger associated with it. It is false economy to endeavour to squeeze the last few miles out of such tyres.

Air tubes should also be in good condition, as patched or stretched old tubes which do not fit snugly into new covers are likely to cause pinches and blowouts.

The 1939 cars are a definite improvement on the 1938 models, states Mr. Alfred P. Sloan, jnr. Chairman General-Motors Ltd. Increased vision seems to be the oustanding point, and the steering column gear shift is available on most cars of the industry.

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THE MARKET GROWER

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Vegetable Culture

LONG HOURS AND UNEQUAL CONDITIONS DEPLORED — WAGES BOARD FOR VICTORIA RECOMMENDED — FOREIGN ELEMENT CAUSES RIOT IN VICTORIA MARKET — VEGETABLE GROWERS FAVOUR PAYING ONION LEVY VOLUNTARILY.

(By Our Correspondent.)

AT THE LAST MEETING of the Vegetable Growers' Association, a great deal of time was devoted to the discussion of Wages and Conditions at present ruling in the Vegetable Growing Industry throughout Victoria. It was felt that the general trend of most industries was to work only forty or forty-four hours per week, and that at present some Vegetable employees were being asked to work forty-five hours per week. Others were working fifty-two hours, and a few were managing their business successfully and only working forty-nine hours; then there is the foreign element which works from daylight to dark. With all these varied hours and conditions ruling throughout the Vegetable Growing Industry, we are simply competing one with the other to produce products, which quite often cannot be sold profitably.

The question is—do other industries governed by a Wages Award work in competition one with the other as regards hours or wages. As readers know the conditions of any one industry are exactly similar. Naturally the most competent man makes the most money, but there will not be any need to work his employees longer hours than the rest of his competitors.

As the Vegetable Industry now stands, growers have to purchase their manure, tools, implements and all things necessary to their living from industries which produce their goods under a fixed price, and are therefore sold at a fixed price to the purchaser. When the grower comes to sell his goods, he must take whatever he can get, according to the amount of produce, which has been produced at any particular time, thus the lop-sided conditions as affecting growers will be apparent.

Growers are not advocating the fixing of prices for Vegetables, for with a product which quickly loses its value once it is taken from the ground, it does not seem practicable at the present time to fix any prices. This method only causes the price to go up unnecessarily for the consumer, and often results in terrific waste of produce when the surplus has to be dumped.

Of course, if the time comes when, a means of drying or canning vegetables profitably, comes about, then it is time enough to fix prices, however if the industry were brought under a uniform rate of wages and hours somewhere in keeping with the rest of the employees engaged in industry throughout the state, it would be sufficient check on production to enable growers to conduct their business along similar lines.

Of course, it may be argued that the land cannot work to fixed hours, but that is only argument, not fact. If overtime is wanted, let the industry pay for it as other industries do, and by this method, sufficient check will be put on production to enable work to be carried out under conditions similar to the rest of the state. Is it any wonder that in years gone by, Vegetable growers have been the Cinderellas, and have had their wives and children to work to such an extent that the children subsequently will not take up the land, but go off to work in the city. With the idea of improving the conditions of the industry generally, a resolution was passed that we request the Governor in Council to bring the Vegetable Growing Industry throughout Victoria under Wages Award, moved by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Beasant.

It may be argued by some growers, that it is impossible to police such an award, but there is no doubt about the result, for with the weight of the law behind any award the employee and employer, are both eager to see the conditions of the award carried out by their neighbour, if they themselves are forced to observe it, undoubtedly those who are nearest the city would be the first to get the system going, but it would gradually spread throughout the state.

Control of Undesirables.

A further resolution was forwarded to the City Council requesting them to control an undesirable type of foreigner, which is finding its way to the Market. Quite recently there have been many heated arguments with the above type of man, who seems to imagine that his country now owns Australia, and everyone who gets in his way, is to be forcibly removed and this element seems to be utterly devoid of any idea of fair play.

Quite recently there was the greatest riot in the Queen Victoria Market, which has occurred for many years. The Vegetable Growers' Association takes a very serious view of these incidents, and is determined to have the law put into operation as far as possible, as quite recently again a member of the Association was bitten on the arm, when refusing to sell some of his goods at a price which a foreigner wished to pay.

Voluntary Payment of Levy on Onions.

The executive of the Association recommend to their members that they pay voluntarily, the ten shillings levy which the Onion Marketing Board wished to collect for the Season of 1938-39.

TURNIP "SNOWBALL."

CAULIFLOWER CULTURE.

Common Defects and Their Causes.

THE chief defects noted in Cauliflowers in the Sydney market are usually due to physiological causes, states Mr. Douglass, of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture.

The open texture of the curd, which is sometimes known as "broken" curd, is invariably the result of cutting too late. A soft textured curd results from either cutting too early, or from high temperatures during the last few days prior to cutting.

Curds which are exposed to the sunlight often develop a yellowish or brown colour. This is considered a very bad defect in local markets. The top of the curd sometimes becomes "ricey" in appearance, the condition usually being associated with overmaturity and warm, dry weather. Riciness is not considered to be a bad defect on the market.

Some varieties are very subject to a defect known as "fuzziness," since it shows up in the form of a fuzzy appearance on the surface of the curd. This is also due to warm conditions. Small, green leaves growing up between the segments of the curd are indicative of a form of "runback," and if occurring in large percentages throughout the crop, would definitely point to poor quality seed.

The little man who was the meek escort of the big woman in her ramble through the shopping establishment had fainted.

"Is he subject to this sort of thing?" asked a shopwalker, as he rendered first-aid and motioned the crowd to stand back.

"Not exactly," replied the woman. "He's a little nervous sometimes. I tried to buy it without him seeing me, but he heard me give the order."

"Buy what?" asked the shopwalker, suspiciously.

"A rolling-pin," said the woman.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROL OF BEAN FLY.

Experiments conducted in the Gosford district last Autumn, demonstrated the effectiveness of a spray mixture consisting of nicotine sulphate and white oil emulsion for Bean fly (Agromyza phaseoli Coq.) control.

The formula of the spray is:—

Nicotine sulphate .. 1 fluid oz.
White oil emulsion .. 8 fluid oz.
Water .. .. 5 gallons

This formula should be strictly adhered to, as an appreciably stronger concentration is likely to injure the plants and reduce the yield, whilst a spray of weaker strength will be less effective in controlling the fly.

Number and Timing of Sprayings.

The number of spray applications necessary for control will vary with seasonal conditions and with the abundance of the fly. From four to six applications of spray are recommended for Summer crops and two to four for Autumn sowings.

The first spray must be applied on the third day after the plants commence to appear above ground, subsequent applications being made at intervals of four days.

Spray Top Surface of Leaves.

It is unnecessary to spray the whole plant; only the upper surfaces of the leaves require spraying. To spray an acre of young Beans once, from 40 to 50 gallons of spray mixture are required. The cost of control in materials and labor will not exceed £4 per acre, and for most infestations it will be in the vicinity of £2.—W. L. Morgan, Assistant Entomologist, N.S.W. Dept. of Agric.

MARKETING OF ONIONS.

New Method in Operation.

In a circular explaining the new method of marketing onions, the Victorian Onion Marketing Board states that growers are permitted to deliver their onions to any authorised agent at ruling prices. Producer agents will be appointed where necessary in addition to the firms already made authorised agents. A deduction of 3/- per ton on all onions sold will be made for administration expenses of the Board, this being payable on onions sold by producer agents as well as those sold through authorised agents.

The disposal of onions through other channels renders the seller liable to prosecution.

"What's that you're making, dear?"

"It's a cushion. Frank's uncle has bought him a seat on the Stock Exchange, and I want him to be as comfortable as possible.

Agricultural Lime

Why and How It Should Be Used

THE term "agricultural lime" may be applied to any one of, or to mixtures of, the following materials:—

1. Stone or builders' lime, known chemically as calcium oxide.
2. Hydrated or water-slaked lime, known chemically as calcium hydrate.
3. Ground limestone, known chemically as calcium carbonate or carbonate of lime.
4. Air-slaked lime, which is a mixture chiefly of calcium hydrate and calcium carbonate, in varying proportions.

The Action of Lime.

The action of lime on the soil, states the N.S.W. Dept. of Agriculture, is as follows:—

(a) It supplies the element calcium without which the great majority of plants cannot grow.

(b) It neutralises or reduces soil acidity. This is perhaps the most important action of lime on soils, for, when excessive acidity has been removed, lime can exert other beneficial effects. At this stage, it might be emphasised that **there is no foundation for the belief that exposure of acid soils to the atmosphere removes soil acidity.** Soil acidity is caused by the removal of bases such as lime from the soil, and can be remedied or reduced only by the addition of liming materials.

(c) It improves the texture of heavy acid soils by causing the formation of a granular structure. Drainage goes on more readily, aeration is improved and the soil is easier to work.

(d) The removal or reduction of acidity encourages the growth of beneficial soil organisms, especially those which convert the nitrogen in soil organic matter into a form which can be used by plants.

Amounts to Use.

The amount of liming material to apply depends on several factors, such as price, degree of acidity, texture, amount of organic matter in the soil and the kind of crop to be grown. Unless all these factors are accurately known, recommendations as to the amount of liming material to be applied can only be approximate.

The following information may assist in determining roughly the quantity of liming materials to apply. It can be assumed that soils in those parts of this State where the rainfall is over 30 inches per annum are moderately to strongly acid; in fact, most of the virgin soils of the coastal and tableland districts fall into this group.

To produce the same decrease in acidity, heavy soils require larger dressings of liming materials than lighter textured soils of the same degree of acidity. In grazing areas it is preferable to apply light dressings, say, 10 cwt. ground limestone per acre, over the whole area than to use heavier dressings on a part of the area and none on the remainder.

Liming Crop Land.

The following figures give some indication of the amount of liming materials to be applied when land is limed for crop production:—

Loams—1½ to 2 tons per acre.

Clay loams—2½ to 3 tons per acre.

Sandy loams and the more sandy soils—15 to 20 cwt. ground limestone per acre.

It is not necessary to remove all soil acidity by liming, as most crops and plants grow well in slightly acid soils. In fact, some crops, such as Maize and Potatoes, tolerate very acid conditions, whilst others, like Lucerne, require a lesser degree of acidity. Most crops which withstand acid conditions can be grown in limed soils, but many of the crops which require a good lime supply either fail or produce very poor results on acid soils.

Crops Affected.

Following is a list of plants grouped according to their approximate relative sensitivity to soil acidity:—

Very Tolerant: Parsnip, Potato, Radish, Sweet Potato, Tomato, Cowpea, Maize, Millet, Strawberry, Oats, Rye, Azalea, Ferns, Heaths, Rhododendron (some), Iris, Orchid.

Tolerant: Bean, Carrot, Brussel Sprouts, Cucumber, Choko, Endive, Kohl Rabi, Pea, Pumpkin, Rhubarb, Squash, Turnip, Crimson and White Clovers, Subterranean Clover, Aster, Daffodil, Jonquil, Larkspur, Petunia, most bulbs, Violet.

Sensitive: Cabbage, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Barley, Rape, Wheat, Gladiolus, Poppy, Rose, Pansy, Snapdragon, Viola, Wallflower, Zinnia.

Very Sensitive: Asparagus, Beetroot, Lettuce, Onion, Parsnip, Spinach, Lucerne, Carnation, Chrysanthemum, Dahlia, Stock, Sweet Pea.

Over-Liming.

It is possible to add too much lime to a soil. Over-liming, however, is likely to occur only on relatively small areas, such as home and market gardens. On these areas overliming may occur when the lime has been spread on the surface and not incorporated with the soil to a sufficient depth, so leaving an excessive amount in the surface few inches of soil. The harmful effects of overliming are only temporary, and may be counteracted by additions of organic matter, such as compost, stable manure, etc.

The Coloring of Foods

Musings on Prawns, Bananas, and Peaches—(and surely not Oranges)

Coloring Defined as "Adulterated"

A stipendiary magistrate in U.S.A. recently ruled that to artificially color a prawn is an offence against our Pure Foods Act. An equally wise lawyer who appeared for the "colorists" said that only the outer covering had been colored, and this had not penetrated or disturbed the color of the flesh. Probably the magistrate, when imposing a penalty for **selling adulterated food,** had in mind the fact that many people when in a state of high spirits eat prawns with the covering, though some do remove the whiskers, as they tickle the throat. There are sections of the act which permit certain meats to be artificially colored, and now that is known, possibly we will have a rush to the paint pot and the dye works. For instance, the cherry which bobs about so enticingly on the top of a cocktail and has such a fascination for guileless young girls and hardened old bibbers, is made enticing by dyeing it. Sometimes it isn't a cherry at all; it is a dyed piece of gum.

It is well known that colored Apples sell better, and (with one or two exceptions) bring a higher price than any other Apples.

An orchardist with a turn for art and a knowledge of the harmony of colors might make a fortune by painting the product of his orchard with such effective pigments that would be rushed by the Apple a day eaters, who have had a sinking feeling lately owing to the fact that Apples are hardly procurable, and the new crop is hanging green on the trees.

What a beautiful bloom could be put on the Peach; and Apricots could be given tints that would make them look like rainbow dew drops.

Green Bananas could be given that touch of yellow ripeness that clear a consignment in a few hours, and in order to warn the buyers against too gluttonous an attack on their Potato-like quality, a paper might be slipped in: "This fruit improves with keeping. Keep covered in a warm place."

But what's the use of art when they will not allow a prawn's outer coat to be painted? They will be making a law soon ordering prawners to shave the whiskers from the things before offering them for sale. Often the head and the whiskers weigh more than the body.

The foregoing clipping (from "The Fisherman") was sent to us by courtesy of Mr. K. Weeding, general manager, S. J. Perry & Co., who writes:—

"I thought it might be interesting to publish this in the "Fruit World" because besides having a humorous vein it is certainly of import to our industry. In fact, I made lots of enquiries whilst in America regarding the coloring of fruit. Probably you are aware that practically all Oranges grown in Florida are artificially colored by vegetable coloring matter prior to being marketed and these Oranges are supposed to be the best in the world."

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Citrus Notes

Science in Citrus Culture

ALTERNATE BEARING — COLD STORAGE — GROWING CITRUS IN POTS — IMPROVEMENT OF SUB-TROPICAL FRUIT CROPS — INFLUENCE OF ENVIRONMENT.

INTERESTING INFORMATION on various phases of citrus culture are dealt with in the "Horticultural Abstracts" (compiled by the Imperial Bureau of Fruit Production, E. Malling Research Station).

The Alternation of Heavy and Light Crops in the Valencia Late Orange.

West, E. S., Barnard, C., and Allan, F. E., in J. Coun. Sci. Industry, Aust.

Thinning the fruit of the Valencia late Orange by 30 to 40 per cent. early in the season of the on year caused a slight increase in the ultimate size of the fruit left on the tree, and a considerable increase in the number of blossoms set and fruit formed in the following season. Harvesting the crop three months before the normal time in the on season increased the set for the following season compared with three harvested at the normal time.

When the fruit was left on the trees three months beyond the normal picking time the number of fruit harvested the following season was not affected, but the size was decreased. It is concluded that an early thinning of up to one-third of the crop in the on year combined with an early harvest should contribute to a more even annual yield.

Alternate Bearing in Citrus.

Brichet, J., in Fruits et Primeurs, Morocco.

The alternate bearing of citrus, chiefly Orange, Mandarin and Clementine, in North Africa, is discussed in the light of American work in California. The alternate bearing habit which is more prevalent inland than by the sea can be mitigated in part by early fruit thinning, i.e., immediately after the first natural fruit drop. Such thinning does not affect, as it does in Apples, the size or quality of the fruit that remains, but it does involve an increase in blossom the following year. Thinning is also beneficial in dry localities or in cases where irrigation is deficient. Even so there are still many other factors causing alternative bearing which cannot be dispelled by thinning, and the majority of these are faults of cultivation. This seems the more probable when it is considered that well-run Orange groves in America and Spain have managed to reduce biennial bearing to small proportions.

Cold Storage Studies of Florida Citrus Fruits.

Effect of temperature and maturity on the changes in composition and keeping quality of Oranges and Grapefruit in cold storage.

Stahl, A. L., and Camp, A. F., in Bull, Florida Agric. Exp. Station.

The effects of various temperatures and stages of maturity on the changes taking place in the physical and chemical characteristics and the keeping quality of varieties of Florida Oranges (Valencia and Pineapple) and Grapefruit were studied. It was found that cold temperatures retarded the life processes, there being a direct relation between rate of change during storage and temperature. At any of the storage temperatures loss of weight during storage progressed with the degree of maturity at picking and storing.

Storage pit, though negligible at all temperatures, was slightly more pronounced at the lower temperature levels. Decay, chiefly stem-end rot, increased with the higher temperatures and with length of storage period. The time fruit remained marketable after removal from cold storage to room temperature varied with the temperature and length of time at which the fruit had been held. Thus fruit held at 37.5 deg. F. remained marketable longer than that at 32 deg. F., and after five weeks at 37.5 deg. F. was saleable after removal for two to three weeks, but if stored for 15 weeks it lasted under a week on removal.

A temperature of 37.5 deg. C proved to be the optimum for storage of unwrapped, untreated Oranges and temperatures under this were better than temperatures over.

In Grapefruit (Silver Cluster and Marsh Seedless), severe pitting occurred after several weeks of storage at 32 deg. and 37.5 deg. F., but not at 54 deg. and 58 deg. for the same period. Decay was negligible at the two colder temperatures and very severe at the two warmer.

On removal from storage to room temperature fruit from 37.5 deg. and 42 deg. F. remained longest in saleable condition, and the former temperature is considered to be the most suitable.

GROWING CITRUS IN POTS ON A LARGE SCALE (RUSSIAN).

Dankov, A. I., in "Sci. Fruitgrowing, Mitchurinsk, U.S.S.R.

In May, 1937, a conference took place in U.S.S.R., in which deputies of all the more important citrus growing institutions and organisations of U.S.S.R. took part. General directions and instructions were given for growing citrus in pots and a new, easy and original method of breeding indoor citrus was demonstrated by Yakhovsky and was approved for general use. (The "new method" is not discussed here, but it is said that thanks to it, Soviet Orange blossom oil (fleur d'oranges) and fruits can be obtained from 1-year-old trees on their own roots—Ed.) Of some interest is a hybrid variety, which is said to have been produced by Mitchurin from Italian seeds, namely Citrus Aurantium L. var. pumila dulcis. The fruit flesh of this variety, also called "Novelty 1932," is red, and is very palatable.

IMPROVEMENT OF SUB-TROPICAL FRUIT CROPS : CITRUS.

Traub, H. P., and Robinson, T. R., in "Yearb. U.S. Dep. Agric., 1937."

This is a monumental work, and whoever is looking for a complete encyclopaedia on the source, distribution, characteristics and future possibilities of the more important citrus fruits in the U.S.A. need go no farther. First are discussed the problems peculiar to citrus breeding, particularly that of polyembryony, methods of breeding, objectives of the breeder, present achievements and future possibilities.

Next in turn are considered the possibilities of improving sweet Oranges, Grapefruits, Mandarins, Lemons and Limes according to the needs of the different regions where they are grown. A short note is given on such minor fruits as Kumquats, Citrons and Pummelos.

The part played in citrus improvement by bud selection is stressed.

Rootstock selection for citrus cultivation in different parts of the States is considered. Very brief but interesting notes are given of citrus research in the following countries:—Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Argentine, Spain, Italy, Greece, Morocco, Palestine, Japan, China (Canton), India (Saharanpur and Poona), Zanzibar, Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales.

The incidence of polyembryony in most citrus types is shown to have retarded progress in genetic research owing to the necessity of growing large numbers of seedlings to the fruiting stage. Previous work on the cytology and polyembryony of citrus is described, and the value of particular breeding methods are discussed.

An account is given of breeding results obtained by Departmental workers when crossing Mandarin with other citrus, Lemon with Lime, trifoliate Orange with citrus and Fortunella species and various other combinations. Notes are made on the whole question of inheritance in citrus with particular reference to disease resistance and vitamin content.

INFLUENCE OF ENVIRONMENT ON CITRUS.

Weber, H. J., in "Calif. Citrogr., 1938."

It is shown that temperature is the predominant factor which affects the time of flowering and fruiting of Oranges. Length of day is of very minor importance. Allowing for differences due to individual or varietal characteristics and differing physical conditions, 55 deg. F. may be taken as the correct zero or vital temperature for citrus growth. Atmospheric humidity influences the size, shape, character and quantity of the fruit, the roundest, smoothest, thinnest skinned, juiciest and best flavored fruits with the least fruit drop being grown in districts where humidity is highest.

PALESTINE ORANGES AND GRAPEFRUIT.

Success at Imperial Fruit Show.

At the Imperial Fruit Show held in London on February 7, 1939, all prizes for Oranges and the 1st and 2nd prizes for Grapefruit were awarded to the Jaffa Orange Syndicate Ltd.

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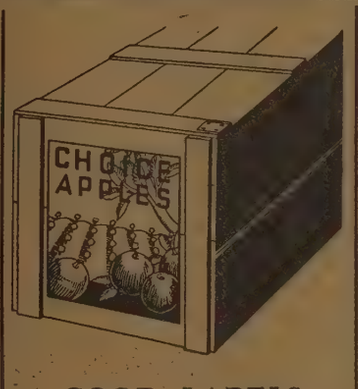

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Citrus Crops in N.S.W.

Forecast of Main Crop Citrus Fruit in N.S.W. for Season 1939

THE extremely hot dry weather and strong winds experienced over an extended period have been responsible for considerable shedding of young fruit, with the result that, in the main, crops generally are below average.

In some groves satisfactory cropping of Navels is apparent, mostly on young trees, but, viewed in the aggregate, **yields will be under normal.** On the Murrumbidgee and Lower Murray Irrigation Areas, crops are light; development of the fruit, however, was said to be satisfactory, even under the adverse seasonal conditions which prevailed until late February.

Valencias, although variable, are for the most part **better cropped than Navals.** In the Gosford district the crop is light, owing to an abnormal shedding during November. In other coastal areas crops are patchy; in some localities a fairly good showing of fruit is apparent, but in many groves prospects are not so favorable. On the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area the setting in some parts appears equal to that of last season, but in others it is lighter, while on the lower Murray the setting is below average.

Reduction in the acreage devoted to common Oranges continues, noticeably in the Gosford district, where such aeras are being converted to vegetable growing.

Production of **Mandarins** is confined mainly to coastal groves. The crop this season has suffered severely owing to adverse weather conditions, and in some localities orchards affected by the proximity of bush fires shed practically all their fruit, and a low prospective outturn is indicated.

In coastal districts **Lemon** crops generally are below average, while throughout other growing centres they vary considerably.

Much bloom was being carried in most citrus groves on the coast, but the dry weather which prevailed until the close of February was likely to prevent any extensive setting of intermediate fruit.

It is expected that the recent rainfall received in the citrus growing areas will be most beneficial to trees and all varieties of fruit.

Field Officers of the Fruit Research Branch of the Dept. of Agriculture and Honorary Crop Correspondents furnished information in regard to crop conditions and anticipated yields in their respective districts. The forecast of production hereunder refers to fruit in sight at present; any adverse conditions which may arise between now and completion of harvesting will, of course, be likely to affect the ultimate outturn.

	Forecast. Bushels.	Bushels.
Oranges:		
Navels	790,000	—
Valencias	900,000	—
Sevilles	23,000	—
Common and Others	180,000	—
		1,893,000
Mandarins		225,000
Lemons		300,000
		2,418,000

—A. A. Watson, Director of Marketing, N.S.W. Dept. of Agriculture. Sydney, 8/3/39.

GREEN MOULD CONTROL.

Careful Handling of Citrus Necessary.

Investigations carried out by the Agricultural Departments of N.S.W., Victoria and S.A., in conjunction with the C.S.I.R., have once again proved the necessity for care in the handling of citrus fruits.

It was first thought that the higher mould wastage shown by coastal fruit was a result of difference in resistance to decay, but it has now been discovered that it is due to the greater opportunity for infection which occurs in coastal-grown fruit.

Great diversity in the behaviour of storage fruit has been found in fruit, not only from different localities, but from different orchards in the same area, or different trees in the one orchard.

Green mould does not only apply to stored fruit, however. Great wastage can result from fruit which is sent directly to market.

When picking, gloves should be worn to minimise injury and the picking boxes should be clean and free from roughness or projections liable to injure the fruit.

Preferably a layer of wood wool should be placed in the bottom of each box, as this prevents injury by gritty particles of soil which are picked up in the orchard.

Special care should be taken in the packing house and in packing the fruit on the orchard as, unless well designed and carefully checked over at regular intervals, there are many points in grading and processing equipment at which the fruit is injured.

Rotted fruit should not be left about the orchard, and all equipment should be kept clean.

CITRUS BOUNTY.

Applications for the bounty on citrus fruits exported during 1938, closed on March 31, 1939.

"Thank you very much, Archie," said the minister as the boy handed up his offering for the harvest festival. "I must call round to your mother's this afternoon and thank her for the eight beautiful Apples."

"Please, sir, thank her for twelve," stammered Archie.

LONDON

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Ship Your Fruit Direct to Market
London — The Inexhaustible Market
with the Highest Purchasing Power

THE PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY PROVIDES UNRIVALLED FACILITIES FOR THE QUICK DISCHARGE AND DISTRIBUTION OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND FRUIT AND ALL OTHER CLASSES OF PRODUCE

T.R.TOOVEY, **PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY** 22 Loftus Street, Sydney

Export & Commercial News

U.S.A. Apples and Pears

Interesting Exhibits in Melbourne.

REPRESENTATIVES of the Victorian fruit industry, including officers of the Dept. of Agriculture recently had the opportunity of inspecting a consignment of Apples and Pears from U.S.A., introduced under quarantine.

Mr. K. Weeding (S. J. Perry & Co.), stated his firm had arranged for the fruit to be brought here for demonstration purposes only, and as displaying the grades and quality of fruit, also the method of packing.

The shipment consists of the following:—

Three boxes "Extra Fancy" Yakima Winter Nelis Pears—Counts: 1 box each 180/193/210.

Two boxes "Extra Fancy" Medford Beurre D'Anjou Pears—Counts: 1 box each 80/90.

Three boxes "Extra Fancy" Washington Delicious Apples—Counts: 1 box each 125/138/150.

Three boxes "Extra Fancy" Washington Golden Delicious Apples — Counts: 1 box each 125/138/150.

Three boxes "Extra Fancy" Washington Winesap Apples—Counts: 1 box each 125/138/150.

Three boxes "Extra Fancy" Washington Rome Beauty Apples—Counts: 1 box each 64/72/80.

Three boxes "Extra Fancy" Oregon Newtown Pippin Apples—Counts: 1 box each 125/138/150.

The fruit was harvested during September and October, 1938, packed in its original containers direct from orchards and placed in cool store until shipment to Australia, January 31, 1939. The fruit had to be shipped from Yakima, Washington, a distance of approximately 250 miles by rail-car to Portland, transhipped at Portland per coastal steamer without refrigerator to San Francisco, where the fruit was again placed in cold storage for a period of twelve days before the sailing of the "Monterey" for Australia. The fruit was then carried to Australia in a common ship's locker with fish, meat, and other chilled commodities.

It was observed that the fruit was put up in two types of packages—one with cardboard collars, and the other with crepe liners with corrugated pads top and bottom. Both of these types of packages are used in U.S.A. for domestic and export shipments.

Great interest was expressed in the appearance, quality and packing. The flavor of the Red Delicious was surprisingly good.

OVERSEA TRADE PUBLICITY.

Appreciation by Mr. S. M. Bruce.

The Australian High Commissioner (Mr. Bruce) recently conferred with the Overseas Trade Publicity Committee in regard to trade promotion activities conducted in the United Kingdom on behalf of a number of Australian industries.

The dairy produce, dried fruits, canned fruits, fresh fruit and egg industries are party to the publicity plan and the Commonwealth Government contributes substantially.

During the 12 years of the operation of the publicity organisation upwards of £750,000 have been expended in the United Kingdom and in that period the annual value of the export of the industries concerned has increased by millions of pounds sterling.

On Monday, both Mr. Bruce and the Honorary Committee expressed satisfaction at the results of the work and the manner of its conduct.

Mr. Bruce emphasised the importance of trade promotion by personal contact in the wholesale and retail trade throughout Great Britain. This had been a special feature of the work of the Director, Mr. A. E. Hyland, whose headquarters are in Australia House, London.

Mr. Bruce stated that a true appreciation of the effectiveness of the organisation could only be obtained by detailed study. From time to time representatives of the interested Australian industries visited Great Britain, studied the work and came back to Australia determined to support it more strongly than ever. Their view was more important and valuable than the opinion casually gained by people visiting England for other reasons.

Mr. Bruce deprecated the opinion of some Australians (a minority certainly) who criticised Australian Trade Publicity work without thoroughly understanding its nature, extent, and effectiveness.

APPLE PUBLICITY.

An Apple Pie for 4,000 People.

Reports to hand from U.S.A. give detailed information of the large campaigns which are being carried out there to increase the sale of Apples. National surveys reveal that the consumption of Apples per capita had declined. This was deemed to be a serious matter, both from the standpoint of the industry and the general public.

Reports from all sections of the United States now indicate that the drift has been stopped, and that there has been a definite response on the part of the public. In addition to the orthodox advertising through newspapers and radio, publicity of an educational nature has taken prominence together with spectacular stunts, one of which was Wenatchee's largest Apple pie. This won nation-wide publicity. The whole community was drawn into the effort. A special oven was built in the city park, and finally 4,000 people gathered around for a taste. Millions of people all over the country saw this in the moving pictures, also the photos. in magazines and newspapers.

Considerable attention is also being paid to the **merchandising** of the Apples. Educational work and publicity through retail shops make sure the public receives the best service possible.

One instance of co-operative effort is revealed in the fact that many newspapers arranged for members of their staffs to make calls on retailers to secure their interest in the publicity campaign and to assure more aggressive sale promotion.

"Why have you come to prison?"
"Competition brought me here."
"Competition?"
"Yes, I made the same sort of bank notes as the Government."

PLUMS AND PEARS IN LONDON.

Prices were received for 1939 Australian exports as follows:—

Plums (per half case): Ex "Melbourne Star." Satsuma 10/-, Jefferson 8/- to 11/-, President 12/-, Grand Duke 14/- to 16/-, Golden Drop 10/-, Wickson 9/- to 10/-. Diamonds arrived in bad condition and were almost worthless. Plums ex the "Brisbane Star," experimental chamber, unsatisfactory. Commercial shipment fruit in good condition. Grand Duke 8/6 to 11/-, President 8/- to 10/-, Lawford's Gage 10/- to 16/-.

Nectarines realised from 8/- to 12/-.

Pears: Prices received for Pears ex "Oronsay," "Stratheden," and "California Star": Howells 10/6 to 12/-, Bosc 12/-, Packhams 13/- to 14/-. Some of these Pears arrived during cold weather—snowing. Prices expected to improve when weather conditions are better.

Prices for Plums in good condition and Pears are deemed to be satisfactory.

VICTORIA.

APPLE AND PEAR EXPORT.

It is estimated that only 200,000 cases of Apples will be shipped from Victoria this year as compared with 639,000 cases last season.

Pear exports will probably be 350,000 approximately the same as last year. It is estimated that 70 per cent. of the Apples shipped will be Jonathans.

FRUIT PRICES IN ENGLAND.

New Zealand Apples in U.K.

New Zealand Apples for London shipped in the "Waipawa" landed in excellent condition. Prices reached were Gravensteins 10/-, 12/-; Worcesters, 11/-, 13/6; Alfristons 10/-, 13/-; Cox's, 22/-, 27/6.

Make Your Export Produce a Safe Investment by Shipping to and through

SOUTHAMPTON

PEARS and APPLES

A few days saved mean the difference between profit and loss . . . . . .

There are many reasons why you should ship your perishable produce—particularly PEARS—through Southampton, England's most modern port. Here are some of them:—

Substantial local markets with a fruit sales room actually on Southampton Docks Estate. Quicker and frequently cheaper transit to Southern and Midland Towns. The Southern Railway of England runs express freights from Southampton to all these centres, saving days and money.

London is reached by express freight trains in three hours from Southampton—All fruit unloaded in Southampton to-day will be at Covent Garden, Spitalfields, or Borough Market for early morning market to-morrow, with days saved as against fruit discharged by ships calling at Continental and other outports first. The slight additional cost is altogether outweighed by the tremendous advantages of days saved.

Deterioration is avoided by special arrangements for sorting to mark, and quick insulated trains direct to London.

Southampton cold stores available for storage of produce for local consumption or Midland deliveries. Pears can be discharged from ship to cold store in less than 5 minutes.

Before the next exporting season, consider these advantages, and ask for Southampton Discharge for London Markets.

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AUSTRALIA APPLE EXPORTS.

Figures for Two Months Show Decrease.

Figures released by the Department of Commerce show that Australian Apple exports for the first two months of the season have fallen substantially as compared with those in a corresponding period last year. No Apples were consigned to the Continent, and shipments to the U.K. fell by 50,591 cases, compared with those in 1938. Last year 39,495 cases were sent to the Continent during the two months.

The total number of cases exported this year was only 154,607, compared with 247,154 in the corresponding two months of 1938.

Pear exports for the first two months of this year fell by 6,362 cases, compared with those in January and February, 1938. Shipments to the U.K., however, showed a slight increase. Although 9,040 cases of Pears were exported to Continental buyers during the period in 1938, there were no exports this year.

COMMERCIAL NEWS.

New Registration.

Dromana Fruit Farms Ltd., 4 Bankplace. Capital: £10,000. Subscribers: W. E. Evans, W. W. Leggatt, T. W. Coggins, V. G. Arblaster, L. W. Hanson.

BROOKE'S LEMOS LTD.

A record net profit of £12,235 for the year ended December 31, 1938, has been announced by Brooke's Lemos Ltd. Directors recommended payment of 8 per cent. for half-year ended December 31, on preference shares, payable May 1, and of 10 per cent. for the year ended December 31 on ordinary shares, payable March 16.

Finality is expected shortly concerning the purchase of the land necessary for the expansion by Brooke's Lemos Ltd. (Melbourne), stated the chairman (Mr. A. E. Jamieson) at the recent Annual Meeting. If the land under consideration is purchased, a new factory will be erected.

MILDURA CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Following the most successful year in the company's history, the Mildura Co-operative Fruit Co. Ltd. reports that for the year ended November 30 last, profit of £7,018 was earned. There will be a rebate of 30/- per ten on dried fruits and 1½d. per case on all citrus. A dividend of 7 per cent. was declared, payable on March 3.

Fixed assets are £62,275, the small reduction on last year calling for little comment. Stock in hand totals £38,021, debtors, etc., £154,517, overdraft £23,851, creditors, £81,928, and paid-up capital £100,652. During the year a record pack was handled.

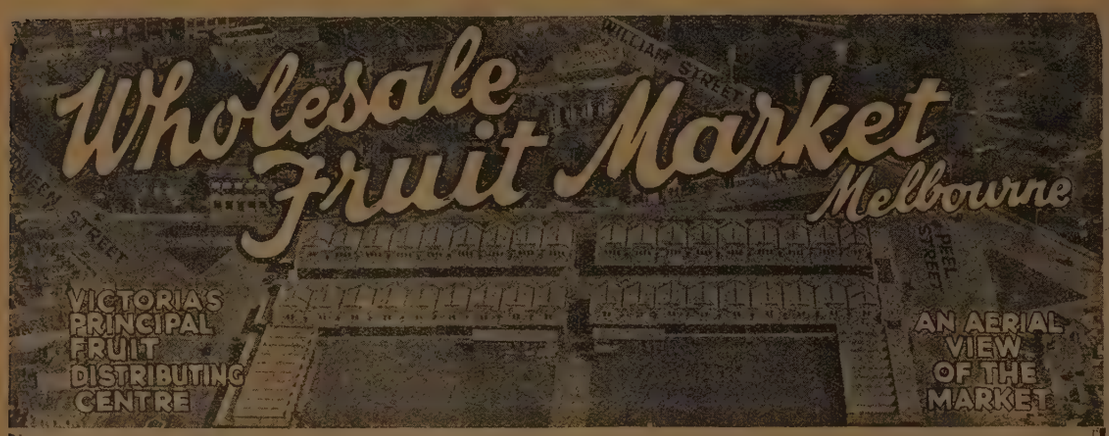
"Any instalments due to-day?"

"No, dear, I think not."

"Any payments due on the house, the wireless set, the furniture, the rugs, or the books?"

"No,"

"Then I've £10 we don't need. What do you say if we buy a new car?"



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Australia looks to you to produce and sell good fruit, but to **PRODUCE GOOD FRUIT** and have it badly sold is a reflection on your business ability. To sell well is as important as to produce well. The greatest combination that can exist beneficially is that between a painstaking fruitgrower and a painstaking salesman.

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Growers Will Receive Top Market Value and Prompt Returns.
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Send Your Consignments TO US

MELBOURNE & SYDNEY.

Science and Practice in Fruitgrowing

SPORT FROM D'AGEN PLUM — SPOTTING OF BANANAS — PARASITE FOR MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY — OVERHEAD IRRIGATION.

Further useful notes, as published below, are to hand from the Imperial Bureau of Fruit Production, East Malling, Kent (Eng.) in their "Horticultural Abstracts." These are summaries of experiments carried on throughuut the world.

An Orange-Colored Bud Sport of the D'Agen Plum.

Kinman, C. F., in "Journal of Heredity."

A recent bud sport of the D'Agen Plum is described from U.S.A. The outstanding characters that distinguish the bud sport from the remainder of the tree are the orange color and large size of fruit, small pits and heavy yield.

Spotting of Bananas Caused by Frankliniella insularis (Franklin).

Squire, F. A., and Briant, A. K., in "Trop. Agriculture, Trin., 1937."

Cases of spotting of Bananas in St. Vincent leading to wholesale rejection of stems for export was traced to the thrips, Frankliniella insularis. It was controlled by the destruction of a host plant Canavalia sp. growing among the Bananas.

Specific and Varietal Susceptibility of Bananas to Cercospora Leaf Spot.

Cheeseman, E. E., and Wardlaw, C. W., in "Trop. Agriculture, Trin., 1937."

Of the 22 types and 2 sub-types in the collection of Bananas at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, 13 are definitely susceptible to Cercospora Leaf Spot, 8 are highly resistant or immune (as also to Panama disease) and 3 are mildly susceptible. Among the species collection there is a high degree of resistance. In the collection of Imperial College hybrids raised in the course of a breeding programme against Panama disease most of the plants are free from spotting. If spotting occurs in field plantations of any of these hybrids, e.g., I.C.2, it is invariably of the mild type.

Parasitization of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly in Hawaii, 1914-33.

Willard, H. F., in "Circ. U.S. Dep. Agric."

The amount of infestation by the Fruit Fly (Ceratitis capitata) in Hawaii in the years 1916-33 and the effectiveness of controlling this Fly over the period from 1914-33 by Opius humilis, Opius tryoni, Opius fullawayi and Tetrastichus giffardianus larvae are recorded here by the Bureau of Entomology, U.S. Dep. Agric. Of the four species, Opius tryoni proved the most valuable under Hawaiian conditions.

Artificial Rain in Crimean Orchards. (Russian.)

Asseyev, G. D., in "Fruits and Vegetables, Moscow, 1938."

Trials of overhead watering were made at the Khan Ali State Fruit Farm with 30 to 35 year old Apple trees, number of trees not stated. This type of irrigation was found to produce higher yields of better quality fruit than the normal method of basin irrigation. It is also said to be more economical of water.

FRUIT CARRIAGE IN QUEENSLAND.

Travels 1,421 Miles by Rail in Good Condition.

The Committee of Direction (Q'ld.) has been advised by the Railway Department that fruit and vegetables packed in dry ice and forwarded to Mt. Isa, 1,421 miles away, arrived in good condition. This is the longest distance in the world that fresh food and vegetables have been transported by rail with a single icing. The consignment, carried in a specially refrigerated truck, left Brisbane about 1 p.m. on Monday and arrived at Mount Isa on Friday morning.

VICTORIAN FRUIT EXPORTS.

A report to hand from the Victorian Department of Agriculture shows that for the week ended March 25 the total number of packages exported was 212,800. The biggest quantity was Pears, with 109,243 bushel boxes, 79,416 cases of which went to London. There were 95,286 bushel boxes of Apples, and of these 68,699 cases were also shipped to London.

FRUIT STORAGE.

Dilworths at Ivanhoe.

Mr. R. Dilworth, manager of Dilworths new cool store at Ivanhoe, Victoria, which was described in our February issue, reports that he still has space available in his recently erected cool store that is equipped with every modern facility for storage and handling fruit. This is the largest single floor cool store in the metropolitan area, and facilities for growers repacking on the premises are provided.

Enquiries regarding space, quotations and any information desired can be obtained by letter to Dilworth & Son Pty. Ltd., Ivanhoe, N.21, Vic., or telephone Ivanhoe 375.

No Bad Debts.

The managing director and his manager were having a very heated argument one day, and the wife of the director happened to hear them and asked him why he allowed his manager to speak like that to him.

"Vell, Vell, my dear," he said, "if he can talk to de managing director like dat, vat will he say to de debtors?"

U.S.A. CITRUS CROPS.

General Increases.

STATISTICS TO HAND from the United States Department of Agriculture Bureau of Agricultural Economics, give the information relative to the 1937-38 citrus crops, together with a forecast for the 1938-39 crop, thus:—

The rapid increase in production over the last few years may be seen when one considers that in 1935-36 the Orange production was 52,073,000 boxes; 1936-37, 54,938,000; Grapefruit 1935-36, 18,329,000 boxes; 1936-37, 30,041,000 boxes; Lemons, 1935-36, 7,787,000 boxes; 1936-37, 7,579,000 boxes and limes, 1935-36, 12,000 boxes, 1936-37, 45,000 boxes.

TOTAL PRODUCTION—PACKED BOX BASIS.

CROPS	STATES	1937-38 Crop	Feb. 1, 1939 Forecast 1938-39 Crop
ORANGES	California	45,605,000	47,710,000
	„ Navel & Misc	16,680,000	18,480,000
	„ Valencia	28,925,000	29,230,000
	Florida	26,700,000	29,900,000
	„ Early & Mid-season	13,700,000	15,500,000
	„ Valencia	10,700,000	11,200,000
	„ Tangerines	2,300,000	3,200,000
	Other States	2,171,000	3,321,000
TOTAL ORANGES	Seven States	74,476,000	80,931,000
GRAPEFRUIT	California	1,943,000	1,896,000
	„ Arizona	2,750,000	3,000,000
	„	11,800,000	15,000,000
	Florida—All	14,600,000	21,000,000
	„ Seedless	5,500,000	7,500,000
	„ Others	9,100,000	13,500,000
TOTAL GRAPEFRUIT	Four States	31,093,000	40,896,000
LEMONS	California	9,355,000	11,234,000
LIMES	Florida	70,000	95,000

WORLD PEACE.

Need for Greater Understanding and Sympathy.

An earnest appeal for the promotion of greater understanding and sympathy among the members of the human family, and a wider realisation of their interdependence as a means to world peace was made by Rotarian Angus Mitchell, governor of the 65th District of Rotary, at a recent dinner of the Castlemaine (Vic.) Club. This, he said, was the world's supreme need at present.

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Personal Attention given to All Consignments

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Mr. W. Pitts (Overseas and Interstate Export Co.), 20 Market St., Sydney, New South Wales. (Sole Agent for:—New South Wales Queensland, South Australia.)

Cables: "Botanizing, London."

SIR JOHN RUSSELL ADVOCATES CLOSER ATTENTION TO NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF CROPS.

Sir John Russell, Director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, England, emphasised the importance of giving more scientific attention to the nutritional needs of plants when he addressed the Agricultural Section of the British Association last August. This association is the principal public gathering of scientists in Great Britain each year.

The theme of Sir John Russell's speech was the part that science can play in agricultural production. He said that while science could help in controlling such adverse factors as soil acidity and plant diseases, he thought that it would be unlikely to produce any new method of multiplying yields greatly in excess of the present rate of production.

Science was now engaged in considering the removal of the factors which kept down the yield as, for instance, acidity of the soil, excess of water and the control of pests and diseases.

Other methods consisted in closer adaptation of the crop to local conditions. There were two sides to this. One was the finding of a variety more suited to local conditions than existing conditions, and one of the most effective ways was to improve the food of the plant.

It was now known that properly fed plants were much less liable to suffer from bad seasons and their yields were higher and more uniform than when some element was left out of their food.

What science had done was to improve old methods so that yields could now be obtained with more certainty than before; there need be no catastrophies as in the old days. Further yields could be obtained with much less expenditure of labor and material, which meant the raising of the standard of life for both the farmer and the farm worker. (Extracts from the London "Times.")

TRADE WITH N. ZEALAND.

The Dept. of Commerce recently made available a report from the Australian Trade Commissioner in N.Z., a report setting out the N.Z. Import and Export Licensing Regulations. Among other things the following is stated:—

Certain commodities, viz., fruit pulp, Lemon and Orange rinds in brine, candied peel, barley (feed and malt), jams, jellies and marmalade, and hops have been brought under the control of the International Marketing Department, and this Department will now have full control over the purchase and marketing of those commodities in New Zealand.

Citrus fruits and Bananas are already under the control of that Department, and it is understood there will be no restrictions on the purchases of Oranges and barley from Australia during 1939.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

Message from Duke of Kent.

The Department of Commerce is advised that His Excellency the Governor-General has received the following cable from H.R.H. the Duke of Kent concerning the exhibit arranged by the Director of Australian Trade Publicity at the British Industries Fair, London:—

"I have just had the pleasure of visiting the exhibit of Australia in the British Industries Fair and I send to the people of Australia my congratulations on the vivid and beautiful representation of the Commonwealth in the Empire's Trade Fair."

CITRUS TREES.

Re-working by Budding.

Now is a suitable time to work over citrus trees which were severely cut back last spring and have had their growth thinned out during Summer. The trees should now be in a suitable condition for budding, and the buds "take" readily.

Budding should be done before irrigation if possible or at a period a few weeks after applying water, for the best results. All trees that are in a sound condition may be worked over. However, it is essential that the trees be well-manured and in a thrifty state before this is done. Any trees in a poor but sound condition should be prepared now for reconstruction next spring.

SMALL FRUITS IN U.S.A.

Fourteen new varieties of small fruits, eleven of which originated at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station are described and evaluated in Bulletin No. 680, issued by the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N.Y., U.S.A.

The new varieties include four **red raspberries**, Indian Summer, Marcy, Monroe and Taylor; three **black raspberries**, Bristol, Dundee, and Evans; two **purple raspberries**, Marion and Sodus; one **currant**, Red Lake; and four **strawberries**, Camden, Catskill, Dorsett, and Fairfax.

Planting stocks of these new small fruits which originated at the Station may be obtained from the New York State Fruit Testing Association, Geneva, N.Y., which co-operates with the Experiment Station in the propagation and distribution of new fruits.

FRUIT JUICE INDUSTRY IN N.Z.

At the annual conference of the New Zealand Fruitgrowers' Federation and the Fruit Export Control Board, the Secretary of the Bureau of Industry gave an assurance that the Bureau was doing all it could to facilitate the setting up of an unfermented fruit juice industry in New Zealand.

Active investigations are being carried out in regard to the manufacture of unfermented Apple juice and it is evident that various groups of growers and also private individuals are becoming interested in the industry. Apart from a manufacturer at Auckland, a number of persons and firms are producing unfermented Apple juice on an experimental basis.

The Department of Industries and Commerce and the Industrial and Scientific Research Department are very shortly to report on the whole question.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

C. A. Nobelius & Sons Pty. Ltd., Gembrook Nurseries, Emerald, Victoria.—Catalogue of fruit trees, elms, planes, oaks, poplars, and other deciduous, ornamental trees, shrubs and conifers. In the fruit tree section a new Peach is listed, namely, Barwon. This is stated to be a seedling of great promise, raised at Barwon, near Geelong, Victoria. It has white flesh, freestone, is a heavy bearer and strong grower.

L. P. Rosen & Son, Carlingford, N.S.W. — Catalogue of fruit trees, rose plants, secateurs, budding, pruning and grafting knives, etc. Helpful information is included regarding insect pests and their remedies, also planting hints.

EGYPT SENDS FRESH VEGETABLES TO LONDON MARKET.

Two hundredweight of fresh green Peas from the fertile delta of the Nile were on sale for the first time in history at Covent Garden Market on February 14, 1939.

They were brought by Imperial Airways to demonstrate that fresh garden produce from the Empire is available in Winter to British housewives.

The Peas arrived in perfect condition, and on reaching London were examined by experts from Covent Garden Market, who decided forthwith to display them on the stalls.

The experimental shipment was divided into three lots. There were two sacks of Peas in the pod, one box of shelled Peas packed in dry ice, and one box of shelled Peas without ice. All three were in excellent condition.

PRODUCERS DISTRIBUTING SOCIETY.

Profit of £47,654 for Year.

The aggregate balance sheet and 13th annual report to September 30, 1938, of the Producers Distributing Society Ltd. reveals a paid-up capital of £203,914. The total sales turnover for the year was £5,716,561. The nett profit was £47,654/17/1, which with the balance of £2,377/4/11 from last year makes a total of £50,032/2/- to be dealt with, thus: £15,000 to reserve; £8,320 to pay a 4 per cent. dividend; £23,814 bonus on commissions paid on industry products, leaving £2,898 to be carried forward. The report deals with the large increase in turnover and profits. During the year the Farmers' Co-operative Distributing Association of Queensland Ltd. was merged with the P.D.S.

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Registered Address for Telegrams and Cables: "CHILTONS."

References:—Bank of N.S.W., Haymarket, Sydney. and Growers throughout Australia.

CITY FRUIT MARKETS, SYDNEY.

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HEAD OFFICE: 2 STEEL STREET, NEWCASTLE.

References: Bank of New South Wales. Shipping Numbers on Application.

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Market Notes and Prices

Fruit Prices in the Sydney Market

Survey of Operations for the Period February 25 to March 25, 1939.

Pears and Apples Plentiful :: Too Many Varieties of Pears :: Big Demand for Oranges :: Interesting Notes and Comments.

THE ATTENTION OF THE TRADE during the past month has been occupied more and more with the pome fruit side of the industry, arrivals of **Apples and Pears**, particularly from Tasmania, increasing considerably. **Peaches** have all along been a feature of the market, and without being extremely plentiful, **Grapes** have also played their part, but the increasing quantities of fruit from Tasmania have played the most important part in market life. During the last week in February, 11,896 bushel cases came from Tasmania, while on the 21st 44,000 cases approximately came forward. The Tasmanian consignments have also included from one to three thousand boxes of **Tomatoes**, several hundred cases of **Plums**, and, generally speaking, probably more than half of the total arrivals have comprised **Pears.**

The total consignments for the month approximate 103,174 cases, and the arrival of more than 50,000 cases of Pears so early in the season indicates a larger crop than usual.

The Pear Season.

The **Williams Pear** season is practically finished, although a few cases are still available, and buyers are now turning their attention to the first Winter Coles that are coming forward. Packham's Triumph, of course, have appeared, but one hesitates to quote their full value lest growers be inclined to forward them when the plentiful supply of other types must necessarily depress the price to the advantage of speculators. Beurre d'Cap have been particularly plentiful from Tasmania, and in fact, the complete pomological list of Pears might be quoted, so great has been the diversity of types appearing.

The feature of

the Apple market

has been the continued popularity of green types such as Granny Smith, Cleo., Alfriston, London Pippin and the first French Crab to come forward. Colored Apples also, almost irrespective of name, sold well until Jonathans became so attractive that buyers would purchase nothing but this popular type. Duke of Clarence, Fanny, Worcester, Tasma Pride, and others are now easier in value, and even Jonathan are mostly no better than 8/- a bushel. Early N.S.W. districts have finished most of their fruit and small consignments of Delicious from Orange indicate the advancement of the season.

Unlike the practice of several years ago, shipments of fruit from Tasmania seldom arrive early Monday, so that complete delivery can be made to the markets on the same day. Vessels now arrive even until Wednesday and delivery is spread so that competition also is distributed over the entire week. Monday is usually a day of good demand for N.S.W. Apples, these frequently obtaining pride of place in the retailers' shop window, this work usually being done early in the week. Recipients of Tasmanian consignments, however, now find it difficult to clear lines of fruit immediately upon arrival, as country buyers and others have gone, supplies seldom being available when they expect them. It is probably something of a disadvantage to the Tasmanian grower also, when the probable arrival of fruit early the following week, causes some agents to clear stocks to obtain the space for next arrivals, this being done sometimes at a reduced price.

Rain in the growing districts of N.S.W. dislocated the picking and despatch of both Peaches and Grapes, while the quality also was affected, the fruit being very tender, and in many instances showing fungal breakdown. The dryness of the season early, resulted in very little loss from fungus of any type, but on occasions it has been very apparent during the last few weeks. Waltham Cross and Gordo Grapes from the M.I.A. and Black Muscat from the Orange district have suffered severely in quality due to recent rains, while Cornichon from the M.I.A. indicate that they will be very light in color throughout the season.

Although seasonal conditions (that is, the dryness, heat and lightness of the crop) resulted in a scarcity of fruit earlier in the season and a lightness in supply up to the present from certain districts, the Irrigation Area has forwarded to Sydney more fruit than usual. This applies particularly to **Melons**, and since the beginning of the year the market has had a plentiful supply of Honey Dews, Californian Cremes, Cantaloupes, Hale's Best and Casabas. Buyers, however, have never been so eager to purchase, that supplies became short, and in fact, on occasions dozens of cases of Melons have deteriorated in the market until they were unfit for human consumption. We apparently have much to learn in this Melon business, and greater attention to distinctiveness between varieties, size of fruit and degree of maturity when packing, must be given if satisfactory values are to be received.

Big Citrus Demand.

Wonderful money is being paid for Oranges, almost any type of fruit realising from 10/- to 20/- a bushel, with 18/- quite an ordinary price. Supplies of course are extremely light, the demand enabling a few 2nd crop Valencias to be colored and disposed of for juice purposes. A few Californian Navels have been available at 45/- a Californian case, but otherwise supplies have been exclusively from the M.I.A. Most available Grapefruit has come from Palestine, a few also coming from U.S.A., while Queensland commenced to forward last week. The Lemon shortage has induced growers with main crop Lemons to pick and artificially color these, and at the present time there is considerable danger of the market being overloaded by this practically juiceless fruit. Should this occur and values crash, growers will only have themselves to blame as supplies of naturally colored fruit must continue scarce for some weeks to come.

Amongst tropical fruits available, about 50,000 cases of **Bananas** have been disposed of, the majority of these coming from N.S.W.

Pineapples have been particularly plentiful, over 35,000 tropical cases coming forward from Queensland alone. Prices of Pineapples have on occasions been very low and every available outlet has been utilised in the endeavor to realise a satisfactory price.

The **Tomato** market has not been a brilliant one, very largely owing to excessive quantities of inferior fruit being under offer, and it is reported, that late plantings are likely to produce fruit until frosts destroy the plants. Supplies have chiefly come from Queensland, but both Victoria and Tasmania have also forwarded.—L. T. Pearce, Market Representative Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W.

FRUITGROWERS' FEDERATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Market Report for March 25, 1939.

Sydney:

Apples: Extra Fancy, Fancy and Good.—Cleo. (N.S.W.), 5/- to 9/- per bush. (Tas. to 7/-); Cox's O.P. (Tas.), 5/- to 7/6; Del. (N.S.W.), 7/- to 12/-, few 13/- (Tas. 7/- to 10/-); Duke of Clarence (Tas.), 5/- to 7/-; Fameuse (N.S.W.), 5/- to 8/- (Tas. 5/- to 7/-); F.C. (Tas.), 6/- to 8/-; Granny S. (N.S.W.), 6/- to 11/-, few 12/-; Jon. (N.S.W.), 5/- to 9/-, few 11/- (Tas. and W.A. 5/- to 8/-); Londons (N.S.W.), 4/6 to 8/- (Tas. to 7/-); Ribstons (Tas.), 3/6 to 6/-; Worcester (Tas.), 5/- to 8/-; Rome Beauty (N.S.W.), 9/- to 10/-; small and "D" Grade lower.

Pears. — B. d'Cap. (N.S.W. and Tas.), 4/6 to 8/- per bush.; B. Bosc (N.S.W.), 5/- to 8/-; Duchess d'Angouleme (Tas.), 6/- to 9/-; Gansel's B. (Tas.), 5/- to 9/-; Howell (N.S.W. and Vict.), 5/- to 9/-; Packham's (N.S.W. and Tas.), 9/- to 12/-; Williams (N.S.W. and Vict.), 10/- to 12/-, few 13/-; Winter Cole (Tas. to 10/-) (N.S.W. 6/- to 11/-, few 12/-); small and "D" Grade lower.

Bananas.—N.S.W. and Qld.—Prices according to the Banana Marketing Board of N.S.W. Regulation graded, first quality fruit. Six, seven, eight and nine inch, 16/- to 25/- per tropical case.

Custard Apples (Qld.), 10/- to 12/- per half bushel.

Citrus Fruits. Grapefruit.—U.S.A.: Californian 32/6 per Cal. case. Palestine: 20/- to 28/- per citrus box N.S.W.: 7/- to 15/- per bush. (immature and small lower). Qld.: 16/- to 19/- per bush.

Lemons.—N.S.W.: Plain and standard (green and partly colored), 7/- to 10/-, few 15/- per bush. Qld.: 17/- to 24/- per bush. West Australian: 12/- to 14/- per bush.

Oranges.—Valencias—N.S.W.: Two-bushel crates 10/- to 20/-; 10/- to 18/-, few higher, per bush.; 2nd crop

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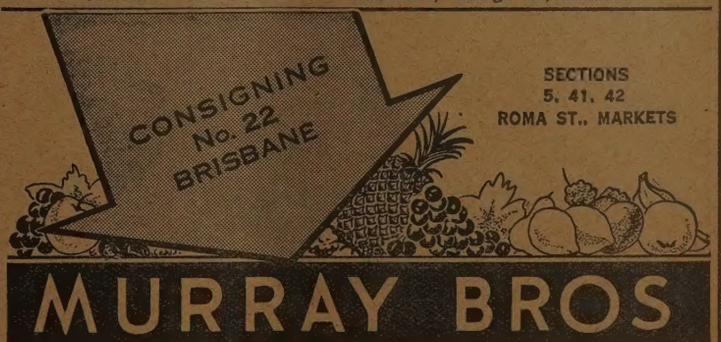

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Harcourt Fruit Supply Co. Ltd.
Victorian Central Citrus Assn. Ltd.
Tasmania: State Fruit Advisory Board.
New South Wales: Griffith Producers' Co-op. Co. Ltd.
Batlow Packing House Co-op. Soc. Ltd.

Vals., 4/- to 9/-, few higher, per bush. Navels (U.S.A.), 37/6 per Cal. case.

Figs (N.S.W.): 3/- to 5/- per ½ bush.

Grapes.—N.S.W.: Inland: Gordo, 6/- to 8/-, few to 11/-; Waltham Cross, 6/- to 7/-; Black Muscat, 5/- to 8/-, special to 10/-; Cornichon, 5/- to 8/-; Doradillo, 3/- to 5/-; inferior in all types lower per half bush.

Melons.—N.S.W.: Inland, Honeydews, Californian Cremes, Cantaloupes, Hale's Best and Casabas, up to 4/-, few higher per trop. case. Local: Watermelons, 1/- to 5/- per dozen.

Nectarines.—N.S.W.: Inland, 6/- to 12/- per half case.

Plums.—N.S.W.: 3/- to 5/-, few 7/- per half bushel case.

Peaches. — N.S.W.: Inland, 2/- to 4/-, special 5/-, inferior lower per half bush.; 4/- to 8/- per bush. (inferior lower). Vic.: 4/- to 9/- (inferior lower per bush.).

Passionfruit.—N.S.W.: 8/- to 15/-, special 18/- per half bush. Qld.: 8/- to 16/-.

Papaws (Qld.): 4/- to 14/- per trop. case.

Persimmons (N.S.W.): 2/- to 4/-, few 5/- per half bush.

Pineapples (Qld. and N.S.W.), 6/- to 8/-, few higher per trop. case.

Quinces (Vict. and N.S.W.), 4/- to 8/-, few 10/- per bush.

Tomatoes. — N.S.W.: 3/- to 6/-, special colored to 9/- per half case. Qld.: 3/- to 6/- per half case. Vict.: 12/- to 16/-, few special higher per bush. Repacked: 8/- to 10/- per half bush. Tas.: 4/- to 7/- per half bush.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (3/4/39).—The following prices are quoted by the Wholesale Fruit Merchants' Association. Per Case: Apples, eating, 4/-, 8/-; choice higher; cooking, 3/-, 6/-; choice higher. Bananas, double case, 15/-, 22/-; few higher. Cantaloupes, 3/-, 7/-; few higher. Grapes, 4/-, 10/-; choice Muscatels higher. Grapefruit, 6/-, 15/-; selected higher. Lemons, 10/-, 17/-; few higher. Oranges, 7/-, 17/-; selected higher. Passionfruit, half case, 3/-, 6/-; choice higher. Papaws, to 20/-. Peaches, yellow, 3/-, 5/-. Pears, 4/-, 7/-; few higher. Pineapples, 8/-, 12/-. Plums, 3/-, 6/-. Tomatoes, 5/-, 10/-; special 12/-; few higher.

The Federal Citrus Council of Australia reports large-sized Vals. slow of sale. Sales: Vals., average, 6/-, 15/-; selected, 7/-, 16/-; few 17/-; selected wrapped, 8/-, 18/-; few specially selected, 10/-, 20/-. Grapefruit, selected, to 15/-; odd, 16/-. Palestine Grapefruit, 28/-, 30/- an export case. Lemons, selected, 14/-, 18/-; specially selected, to 20/-; green and small, 3/-, 4/- lower.

QUEENSLAND.

Brisbane (22/3/39).—Messrs. Clark & Jesser report as follows:—The ruling values here at present are as follows:—Apples: Jons. 10/- to 12/-, smaller sizes 9/- to 10/-; other colored Apples 10/- to 11/-, G.S. 9/-. Pears: Caps and Gansells 9/- to 10/-; Howells, 10/-; W.C., 10/- to 12/-. Oranges, 16/- to 17/-. Lemons 20/- to 22/-. Plums: Presidents and Grand Dukes, 5/- to 7/-. Grapes: Purple Cornichon 9/- to 10/-; Waltham Cross 8/- to 9/-, Muscats 6/- to 7/-. Passionfruit, 10/- to 12/-. Tomatoes 6/- to 8/-.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide (31/3/39): Apples (Jon.) 6/- case; do. (large) 5/- case; do. (cookers) 5/-; Bananas 25/- to 27/-; Grapes 5/- half-case; Lemons 10/- case; Oranges 12/- to 14/-; Passionfruit 8/- half-case; Peaches 3/6 half-case; Pineapples 14/- to 16/- case; Plums 2/- to 3/6 half-case; Quinces 3/6 case.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Perth (27/3/39). — Apples: Jon., dumps, 3/- to 4/- (plain), 4/- to 5/6 (fancy), 5/- to 7/3 (ex. fancy); Dunn's 2/-, 2/- to 3/-, 3/6 to 4/3; G. Smith 4/- to 6/6 (fancy), 6/6 to 7/- (ex. fancy); Cleo. 2/- to 2/9, 3/- to 3/6, 3/6 to 4/6 (ex. fancy); Del. 3/- (plain), 3/- to 6/- (fancy). Pears: Bartlett, flats, 3/- to 8/3, others lower. Citrus: Oranges, Vals., flats, 3/- to 6/- (special to 7/6); dumps 5/- to 9/- (special to 11/6); Lemons, flats, 2/- to 7/6. Other lines: Plums, flats, President 5/- to 11/-; Peaches, flats, 2/- to 7/-. Tomatoes, flats, local, No. 1 ripe, 3/- to 8/6 (special to 9/3); half-ripe 3/- to 7/6; country 3/- to 8/9; Grapes, Muscats, open, 7/6 to 9/9 (and from 4/6); colored, open, 4/- to 7/9; Passionfruit, ½ bushel to 9/6.

NEW ZEALAND.

Dunedin (23/3/39). — Messrs. Reilly's Central Produce Mart Ltd. report as follows:—Fair supplies of all lines have been received during the week. Heavy supplies of late Peaches are arriving, but the demand is limited, and prices are low. Fair supplies of Nectarines are arriving, and are meeting with a satisfactory enquiry. Dessert Plums are also in good supply.

Increased consignments of Apples have been received, and some very fine quality Coxes Orange, Del. and Jons. are arriving from Central Otago and netting good values. Good quality cooking Apples also have a demand.

Pears are in short supply, and good quality lines are bringing satisfactory prices. Increased supplies of Passions are being marketed. There is a good demand for local Grapes. Limited consignments of Tomatoes are arriving, and the market remains steady.

Oranges are in demand, supplies are now sold out of the marts, and a further large shipment is due by the "Port Gisborne" on the 29th. This boat is also bringing a small parcel of Jamaican Grapefruit. A small shipment. of Cal. Grapefruit is due to arrive this week. N.Z. Lemons are in ample supply at low values. Ripe Bananas are in demand, a further shipment of Samoans ex the "Matua" is due this week, the fruit having been railed from Auckland.

Prices (per case): Jamaican Grapefruit, 19/6 to 27/6, Cal. 35/-. N.Z. Lemons, Keribest, 15/-, others 8/- to 12/-. Cal. Sunkist Lemons, 55/6. Oranges: Jamaicans 21/- to 29/-. Bananas, ripes, 22/6. Apples: Coxes Orange 8/- to 13/6, Jons. 7/- to 10/-, Dels. 8/- to 10/-, small grades 3/6 to 5/6, cooking Apples 4/6 to 6/6. Queensland Pineapples, 20/- to 22/6. Bon Chretien Pears 6/- to 10/6, Conference 7/- to 8/-, Beurre Bosc 7/- to 8/-, Winter Coles 6/- to 7/6, cooking Pears 3/6 to 4/6. **Per Half Case:** Apricots, dessert, 3/6 to 5/6. Peaches, dessert Freestone, 2/6 to 3/-. Plums, 2/- to 4/6. Nectarines, 4/- to 6/-. Conference Pears, 3/- to 3/6, Beurre Bosc 3/- to 3/6. Passions, 10/- to 14/-.

SYDNEY FRUIT MARKET.

Appearance of W.A. Jonathans.

In a report by the Tasmanian Government Marketing Officer in Sydney, Mr. H. McKay, it is stated that 27,990 cases of Apples and Pears arrived from Tasmania in the week ending March 17. 297 cases of these were for Brisbane and 559 cases for Newcastle.

The first arrivals of Western Australian Jonathans were estimated at 2,000 cases and came during the week ending March 17.

Tasmanian Jonathans commenced to arrive in quantities and earlier varieties — Worcester Pearmain and Alexander were declining. The Ribston Pippin variety, however, was still coming to the market.

NEW GAS FOR KEEPING FRUIT.

Dr. H. A. Jay, of South Africa, a specialist in diseases of the arteries, claims that he has discovered a gas that enables fruit to be kept in perfect condition for twelve months and that he discovered the gas accidently. Officers of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture are investigating the matter.

Mr. A. A. Watson, N.S.W. Director of State Marketing, has corresponded with the Department of Economics and Marketing in South Africa, but reliable information is not available.

Mr. Watson stated that if this means of preserving fruit could stand up to the tests it would indeed be a most important factor in the export of fruit, but that further information was necessary before final judgement could be made.

EXPERIMENTAL PLUM SHIPMENT.

From reports to hand so far, it appears that the shipment of Plums in experimental chamber from Victoria was not a success, whilst the Plums of similar varieties under commercial conditions was quite successful.

When details are available these will be studied with very great interest. There appear to be a good future before Plum export. While expressing symapthy to those who have suffered losses in the experimental shipment—the hope is expressed that experiments will be continued until this business can be put on a secure footing.

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Pigs and Pork

Feeding the Pigs :: Importance of layout of Piggery :: Ample paddocks and Yards Needed :: Cleanliness Essential.

THAT PIG FEEDING is the basis of success in pig raising is the opinion held by Mr. A. F. Gray, N.S.W., Senior Piggery Instructor.

This all-important point is sadly neglected by many farmers who mainly depend on the foods naturally supplied, due to the lack of home-grown feeds.

Much of the pig raisers' success depends on cheap and suitable feeds, and where possible this should be produced on the farm, so keeping down costs.

There are so many crops that can be grown successfully on the average farm, such as wheat, oats, barley, maize, pumpkins, mangolds, artichokes, swedes, lucerne, rape, and others, together with grasses and, in many instances, skim milk or buttermilk.

Milk, however, is not absolutely essential, and many excellent pigs are produced and marketed that never have any milk diet at all after weaning at eight weeks old.

These are probably slower in reaching marketing standard, but are quite satisfactory, and if grain-fed, are much sought after on the market.

All feeds must be given while sweet, and in clean vessels, and in Winter months all slop feed is preferably fed warm. Clean sties and yards are also essential. Dirty feeding conditions are the cause of many losses among young pigs before weaning.

Feeding Young Pigs.

Old, cracked wooden or concrete troughs are bad for feeding young pigs; in fact, all litters at about three weeks old should be fed in a "creep," which can be made from an old motor tyre split around, so that they are separate from the mother. **This helps in their growth and development and so the sow weans to far better advantage.**

Many losses also result from the sow not being properly fed and attended prior to farrowing. The suckers when born are weak and not nourished as they should be to give them a good start.

The

"layout" of the piggery

is also of importance in feeding. The troughs can be placed so that they extend through the fence and they should preferably be placed on concrete platforms so that the pigs feed under cleaner and healthier conditions.

Feeding direct off the ground in wet weather, much filth is taken in when the pigs feed. The concrete platforms also need to be properly drained, and should extend, say, 2ft. 6in. to 3ft. on each side of the trough.

To get satisfactory results a pig should have one foot of trough length for feeding, which allows free and easy access, without jostling. Bars placed across the troughs keep the pigs from lying in them and so assist in keeping the feed cleaner.

To ensure that the pigs get the amount of feed intended

ample small paddocks

or yards are necessary, so that proper grading of the pigs is possible. One often sees pigs being fed in small, filthy yards, with little or no exercise, and the question is asked: "Why do the pigs not grow?" Do not try to feed too many pigs in a yard; it is better to have two yards, each containing 12 to 15 pigs, than the one containing 20 to 30 pigs. For fattening, allow a pen, say, 16 feet square, where the pigs can be placed three to four weeks before marketing, and this will take six to eight pigs.

Concluding Hints.

And remember, the longer one keeps and feeds the pigs, the more it costs. Separate attention is needed for the brood sows, the suckers, weaners, stores, porkers or baconers.

Keep them going by proper feeding and attention, breed your own pigs rather than buy them.

Get the feed question settled and established so that you are able to maintain a continuous supply of pigs to the market.

A little more study on feeds and feeding is worth while, and pig raisers are urged to realise that the pig is clean, quick growing and a grazing animal that responds well to good treatment. There are plenty of opportunities in the industry and on the majority of farms feed can be grown, so that pigs can be cheaply produced.

Poultry Notes

Feeding for Eggs.

When pullets first come into production, do not be in a hurry to give them a layer's mash, particularly if they are early maturers. A good growing ration containing plenty of bran and not too much protein concentrate will guard them against the effects of over-stimulation and prevent the sacrifice of body development to egg formation.

Precocious birds which begin to lay while still not fully grown will tend to lay small eggs for a long time, but persistence with the growing ration for from six to ten weeks after production commences will probably prevent this to a large extent.

Pullets which are late or slow when coming into lay should be helped along.

Plenty of Food.

A midday feed of wet mash where dry mash is generally given will be beneficial as the days grow shorter. The consumption of grain should be encouraged, particularly at this time, and the birds given all they will eat at the afternoon feed.

I do not recommend maize as a feed to be used to any extent for young birds or birds out of production, as the fat it contains will accumulate in the body if not used in the formation of egg yolk.

Maize in Winter.

Maize, nevertheless, will be a valuable part of the ration later on in the Winter, for it will prevent loss of weight and the slump in production and moulting which follow. The best time to introduce it into the ration is about April or when the birds have begun to show signs of heavy production by bleaching somewhat (i.e., in the yellow-skinned breeds).

Everyone is familiar with the term "balanced ration." A ration which is deficient in carbohydrates will not maintain the birds' condition, while one which contains an excess will put flesh on them instead of producing eggs, and may soon lead to such trouble as enlargement of the liver.—"Australasian Poultry World."

SHELLGRIT FOR FOWLS.

Essential for Good Production.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT to add shellgrit to the rations for fowls. Any shortage of this commodity in the diet, especially during the Autumn, will be reflected in a decreased production and faulty shells.

The grit should be of good quality, and must be neither too large nor too fine. As shellgrit is absorbed by the birds for digestive purposes, many poultry breeders believe that any type of grit—such as ironstone or quartz—will suffice. Others provide burnt lime as shell-making material. Both ideas are wrong, states the N.S.W. Poultry Expert. Burnt lime being absolutely harmful. Lime in its burnt state should never be given to poultry, nor can the practice of putting it into the water be commended.

An egg-shell is composed principally of carbonate of lime, potash, soda, magnesia, calcium and oxide of iron. When a hen is in full lay, a very large quantity of shell has to be made, and the necessity for an unlimited supply of this material is obvious. A combination of one-third by measure of oyster shell to two-thirds of seashell crushed to a suitable size, appears to give the best results.

The correct way to supply shell grit is to place it in receptacles in the yard or pens, where the birds always have access to it, and the supply should never be allowed to become exhausted. When shellgrit is used in the nests, it is advisable to place some in a separate receptacle as well.

QUEENSLAND.

Excellent Fruit at Amiens Show.

The Apples on display at the Amiens Show (near Stanthorpe) Queensland, were well matured, free from disease, and of excellent quality, while the grapes were the best seen on the Granite Belt this season.

The prize for the most points scored in the fruit section was won by Glen Aurie Estates, and that for most points scored in the show by one family went to the Westerman family, of Thulimbah.

In opening the show, Mr. P. J. R. Hilton, M.L.A. stated that he looked forward with great hope to the **research work being carried out in the district** with the object of deciding the best means of dealing with fruit pests. If the work were done carefully, loss of fruit because of pests would be reduced to a minimum.

THE PLOUGH IN THE ORCHARD.

Advantages Over the Cultivator.

Where land has become compacted through traffic, rain, irrigation, or other causes, or if weed growth is prevalent, this is a good period to carry out a Summer ploughing.

In most instances the plough is, at this stage, of more value than the cultivator. In fact, often a thorough ploughing about this period will leave the land in satisfactory condition till the Autumn, whereas if the cultivator is used the operation will need repeating several times before Autumn. Moreover, the plough leaves the land in far better condition to absorb any rain that falls.

In many orchards it is a common thing to see strong weeds growing around young trees. This should not be allowed during the growing season, as such weeds check the progress of the trees, and trees that are checked in growth during their first few years after planting, will not develop as well as those that do not receive a check in growth.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS

All Members under Fidelity Bond

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the

Wholesale Fruit Merchants' Association of Victoria

the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the

WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE.

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Correspondence is invited by the Association.

Office : 21 Wholesale Fruit Market, Queen Street, Melbourne. Phone: F 4866.

Canned Fruit News

BRITAIN AND CANNED FOODS.

Rapid Development Taking Place.

GREAT BRITAIN is just discovering home economics, while America leads the world in this field, declared Miss Janet Bond, head of the Canned Foods Advisory Bureau of Great Britain, who visited the United States to study developments in this field.

There has been a sensational boom in the British production of canned foods since about 1930, the present output being some thirty times as large as it was eight years ago, according to Miss Bond. Among the causes, she lists the emancipation of the British housewife in the twenty years since the world war, and the appearance of a servant problem for the first time in the country's history.

"But canned food is still largely an emergency item to Great Britain's 11,000,000 housewives. More than one-half of our canned products are ready-made dishes such as meat rolls, Irish stew, curried lamb, and various hot pots. The housewife uses these when she lacks time or inclination to prepare a meal in the kitchen," says Miss Bond.

"We are just beginning to use canned foods as ingredients of home-cooked dishes. British women still do not appreciate the economy and the uniform, high quality of canned foods as materials for their own preparation of meals.

"But canned staples are gaining in popularity. Our largest canned item is dried, soaked peas. There is also a large production of canned, cooked celery hearts, and of diced, or small, whole carrots. Stringless beans are popular. Fruit juices are used as beverages, for refreshments, rather than as an article of diet.

"We can but little fish, mostly herrings, although this should be a lucrative field. Even though the British Isles are surrounded by fishing waters, inadequate distribution facilities make it difficult to get fresh fish in many towns which are only twenty-five or fifty miles from the coast."

Miss Bond visited the United States to study home economics theory and practice, as well as methods of consumer education in allied fields, particularly through motion picture films. A start has already been made in England with films, she notes, the great co-operative stores association having prepared a film to promote the consumption of canned foods by its members.

Exports of canned fruits from Australia in 1938 totalled 1,786,056 cases. The United Kingdom took 1,549,321 cases; New Zealand, 124,273; Canada, 88,962; The East, 17,383, and 6,117 cases went to other countries. The 1938 production and export of canned fruits constituted an all-time record.

KYABRAM'S CANNING FRUITS.

At Kyabram, Vic., where high quality Peaches and Pears are produced, many extensions and replacements of trees which have gone out of bearing, are being made. Williams Pears are grown on a large scale, more so than formerly. Growers are reluctant to discard trees that have yielded continuously, but they are realising that they must supply canners with fruit that is required by the British Trade.

Last season the Kyabram Cannery processed a record of 7,482 tons, which yielded 10,750,000 cases of fruit and 425 tons of fruit pulp. The Directors are Messrs. R. H. Gent (Managing); Jas. Higgs and W. F. Cooper with Mr. A. D. Brown, representing the State Government. The Secretary is Mr. C. P. Creighton.

SHOPKEEPERS ASSIST CANNING INDUSTRY.

THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION which is embodied in the following par from the "Queensland Shopkeepers' Journal" is warmly appreciated—

A big crop of Pineapples is anticipated.

Shopkeepers can help the growers, for after all it is from the land that all wealth arises, Wherein lies the value of producing if that which is brought forth from the land cannot be sold?

Shopkeepers, render your help. Never mind what others propose or suggest. Help the Pine apple growers by placards and signs in your shops, place the fruit on display in every possible place and in every possible manner. Keep Pineapples constantly before the eyes of the public. There is no disputing the truth of the statement that advertising is the chief means of effecting sales. Shops are advertising means as well as newspapers.

Do not treat the suggestion in a casual manner. Take the matter up earnestly.

AREA OF PORES IN TINPLATE.

In a recent issue of the Philosophical Magazine, Mr. W. E. Hoare gives a method of calculation to assess the area of basis steel exposed at pores in the tin coating in tinplate. The calculation is based on the results of an experimental investigation of the effect of thickness of the tin coating on porosity, and on theoretical work on the size of non-reactive areas necessary to produce normal pores.

The method is of value to research workers studying the corrosion of tinplate. The paper has now been issued in pamphlet form as Publication No. 86 of the International Tin Research and Development Council.

Copies of the above publication may be obtained on application to the Secretary, International Tin Research and Development Council, Fraser Road, Greenford, Middlesex, England.

CANNING.

The 1938 canned fruit pack in California totalled 17,018,082 cases. Canned vegetables came to 9,478,831, making the total California pack 26,496,913 cases.

Employer: It is quite clear to me, Patrick, that you have got the firm's stamp money muddled up with your own—

Irish Clerk: Well, sir, 'tis all so much aloike!

"WERNER" PLANTS Refrigerate Over 1½ Million Cases

of Fruit in over 60 Stores throughout the Commonwealth

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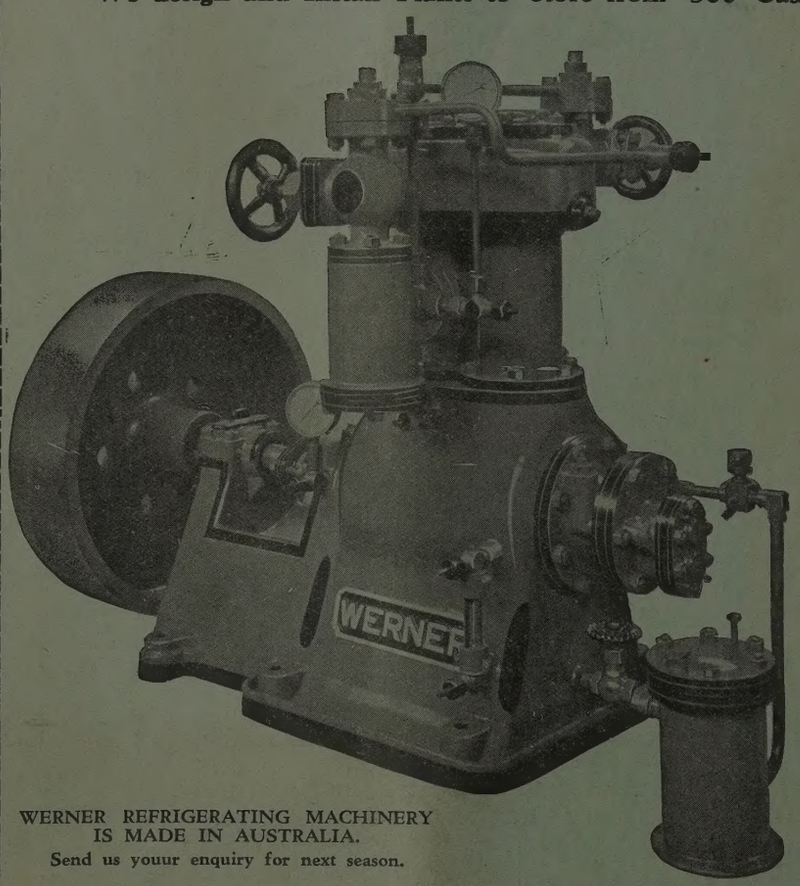

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S.A.: W. J. WHITE, 3 Trevelyn Street, Wayville.

W.A.: ATKINS (W.A.) LTD., 894 Hay Street.

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